

## Kuwait threatens to withdraw from Arab Games if Iraq attends

KUWAIT (AFP) — Kuwait on Monday threatened to boycott the Arab Games to be held next month in Lebanon if Iraq sends athletes to the event. "We will not accept any sports meeting with Iraq while there are (Kuwaiti) prisoners detained by the Iraqi regime," the president of Kuwait's Olympic committee, Sheikh Fahd Al Ahmad Al Sabah, said. Kuwait is "determined to withdraw from the Pan-Arab Games" if Iraq takes part. Sheikh Sabah said, the official Kuwaiti News Agency (KUNA) reported. The games are due to run from July 12 to 27. The Arab Tennis Federation on Sunday voted to maintain a ban on Iraq in place since its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جورديان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة بالعمان المنشورة من المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية والرأي

## King, Qatari emir hold talks

LONDON (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein and Qatari leader Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani on Tuesday discussed bilateral relations and means of enhancing inter-Arab cooperation. The two leaders also discussed obstacles facing the peace process and stressed the need to resume peace talks in order to reach a just, comprehensive and durable peace in the region. Sheikh Hamad briefed King Hussein on the outcome of his visit to the United States and his talks with President Bill Clinton. Sheikh Hamad also briefed the King on Qatar's preparations for the Middle East and North Africa economic summit, which will be held in the Qatari capital in November.

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## Petrol bombs thrown at Israeli army jeep in Hebron

HEBRON (AFP) — Palestinians threw three petrol bombs at an Israeli army patrol in the West Bank town of Hebron Tuesday, but caused no injuries, military sources said. One of the vehicles in the patrol was damaged and soldiers swept the area in an attempt to find whoever threw the Molotov cocktails, the sources said. Hebron has been the site of clashes over the past 10 days between soldiers and Palestinian protesters throwing stones and petrol-filled bottles.

## Israeli navy frees Lebanese fishermen

TYRE (AFP) — The Israeli navy released four Lebanese fishermen after detaining them Tuesday for seven hours off the coast of the port city of Tyre in south Lebanon, security sources said. An Israeli gunboat seized the men after they had sailed with five other fishing boats at dawn off the port of Tyre, the sources said. They were interrogated aboard an Israeli gunboat for seven hours, mainly about port activities, they said. Last month, the Israeli navy besieged the port for 10 days after a guerrilla from the pro-Syrian Amal movement carried out a failed suicide attack against an Israeli gunboat.

## Israeli base on Golan hit by Israeli mortar shell

TEL AVIV (AFP) — An Israeli phosphorus mortar landed in the middle of an Israeli army base in the Golan Heights, and a potential disaster was averted only because the shell failed to explode, an Israeli newspaper said Tuesday. The mortar shell was fired during an exercise by Israeli artillery and landed directly on a tent in which soldiers were located inside the base, the daily Yediot Aharanot said. Fortunately, the shell did not detonate and no one was injured, the paper said, adding that an inquiry was being made about the misfire. Israel occupied the Golan Heights from Syria in 1967 and occupied it in 1981.

## Palestinian prisoners hold one-day hunger strike

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Some 3,500 Palestinians imprisoned by Israel held a one-day hunger strike Tuesday to protest poor prison conditions and mistreatment, a Palestinian official said. Hisham Abdul Razeq, the top official for prisoners affairs in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), told AFP that the strike was a "warning, and if there is no improvement we will hold a permanent hunger strike." The strike was held Tuesday by all the Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, totalling around 3,500 prisoners, "to protest maltreatment, the poor condition in the jails and the denial of family visits," he said. "Many of the prisoners are kept in substandard facilities and are not given proper medical care," he said. The protest was also against the continued holding of over 300 administrative detainees. Palestinians held in Israeli prisons without charges or trial, many for a period of several years, he said.

## Netanyahu survives no-confidence vote Premier's coalition weakened; Hanegbi points finger at Barak

Combined agency dispatches

Benjamin Netanyahu suffered a political blow Tuesday, but remained on his feet as his government survived a no-confidence vote in parliament. The motion brought by opposition parties was rejected by a 55-50 vote, with 2 Knesset members abstaining. Key members of the premier's coalition said they no longer trusted him after a string of broken promises but they apparently were unwilling to risk their positions and force new elections by actually voting in

favour of the opposition to bring down the government — which would have also dissolved parliament. Instead, seven coalition members absented themselves from the chamber, and four — including former cabinet ministers Dan Meridor and Benny Begin — demonstratively refused to vote in any way and were registered as absent. "I'm very happy with the 55 we got," Mr. Netanyahu said after the vote. "I knew the government would hold and now we're going to get on with the work at hand."

Knesset to topple Mr. Netanyahu, claimed partial victory. "I am confident that what you are seeing today is the beginning of the collapse of the moral authority of Netanyahu." The six-hour debate was interrupted for more than an hour after Justice Minister Tsachi Hanegbi, speaking for the government, launched a sharp personal attack against Mr. Barak who would defeat Mr. Netanyahu, polls suggest, if elections were held today. As armed forces chief of staff in 1992, Mr. Hanegbi claimed, Mr. Barak aban-

(Continued on page 7)

## Israel tests plans to recapture West Bank and Gaza Strip

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli army has tested plans to invade and reoccupy Palestinian enclaves in the West Bank and Gaza Strip in a doomsday scenario in which the Palestinian self-rule authority collapses, the Israeli press said Tuesday. Israeli military intelligence has warned that the freeze in the peace process, now more than three months old, could lead to violence by the Palestinians which could, in the worst case, cause the collapse of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), the Israeli daily Yediot Aharan-

ot said. State radio said the army has drawn up and exercised a simulation to reoccupy the Palestinian territories in case the situation falls apart. In the scenario, Israeli troops would invade autonomous areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, impose a military administration, arrest officials from the PNA and slap an economic blockade on the territories, the radio said. In Gaza City, a top adviser to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat condemned the reported plan and warned that the Palestinians

would defend their territory. "The Palestinian (National) Authority will not allow any aggression by Israel against any part of its liberated territory," Nabil Abu Rudeina told AFP. "This plan shows the hidden intentions of the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which do not serve the peace process and lead only to an escalation of tensions in the region," he said. An official in the Israeli military administration in the territories confirmed to

(Continued on page 7)

## Israeli settlers shoot two youths protesting settlement expansion

RAFAH (AFP) — Jewish settlers shot and wounded two Palestinian teenagers and injured another overnight when they attacked a protest sit-in outside their Gaza Strip settlement, hospital sources said on Tuesday. A group of settlers from the settlement of Morag in the southern Gaza Strip attacked on Monday evening a tent camp on the edge of the settlement, tore down tents and burned Palestinian flags, witnesses said. When the Palestinians in the camp set the tents back up, the settlers returned to tear them down again, under guard by Israeli soldiers, they said.

In the scuffles that resulted, the settlers opened fire with live ammunition, moderately injuring Hazem Abu Jazar, 16, and Ahmed Abu Kush, 15, in the leg and foot, hospital sources said. They struck a third Palestinian with the butt of a gun, breaking his arm, the hospital sources said. Palestinian security liaison officials passed on a "strongly worded" complaint to their Israeli counterparts over the incident, liaison sources said. The protest tent outside Morag has been the scene of nightly incidents since it was erected two weeks ago to protest a new perimeter fence that was built around the

small settlement. Palestinians say the fence is built on their land in a bid to expand the settlement. Israeli soldiers shot and wounded a deaf-mute Palestinian in the head when he failed to hear their warnings late Sunday, and he remains in critical but stable condition in hospital in Gaza City. Over the weekend, soldiers opened fire on two Palestinians walking at night near the perimeter fence. Both ran away in the darkness, but the army said one of them was wounded in the leg. Clashes broke out between soldiers and protesters outside Morag two weeks ago.

## Palestinians impose customs to curb 'official' smuggling

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has imposed customs duties on its officials bearing VIP cards after it was revealed they were using their elite status to smuggle imports into the self-rule areas, an official said Tuesday. "There are some bearers of VIP cards who exploit the position and bring commercial goods such as clothes and electrical appliances through international crossings," said Mohammad Arafat, director general of customs. "Some have used the VIP status for personal commercial reasons, bringing in

large amounts of goods without paying customs, something which has cost the Palestinian treasury large sums," Mr. Arafat told AFP. Under self-rule deals with Israel, top officials in the Palestinian self-rule authority received "VIP status" in order to free their movement and better perform their duties. The cards allow them to pass easily through international borders into the Gaza Strip and West Bank, which are controlled by Israel, and freed them completely from searches by Palestinian authorities at crossings into self-rule areas. But Mr. Arafat said that

with the new decision, passed last week, VIPs would have to declare goods above \$300 in value and pay customs duties on them. "If they fail to do so and are found to have goods, they will have to pay a fine of 200 per cent the value of the goods," Mr. Arafat said. "The VIP status is not intended to allow officials to bring commercial goods with them from abroad," he said. The PNA has begun investigations into mismanagement and abuses of authority by its officials which an auditor's report last month said had cost millions of dollars.

## Eight Arab countries to meet in Syria to unify Arab stance

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Eight Arab foreign ministers will meet this week in Syria on several burning issues, especially economic co-operation with Israel and the crisis in the peace process, diplomats in Damascus said.

The meeting of the Damascus Declaration countries — Syria, Egypt and the six Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) members — will be held Wednesday and Thursday in the city of Lattakia on the Mediterranean Sea where President Hafez Al Assad has his summer home. The GCC members are Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Syria is fiercely opposed to the holding of the fourth Economic Conference on the Middle East and North

Africa (MENA) scheduled for November in the Qatari capital, Doha, because Israel is to be invited. Damascus has won the support of Riyadh, Kuwait City and Abu Dhabi for its position that holding Arab-Israeli economic meetings is "useless" at a time when the peace process is frozen, diplomats in the Gulf said.

## Qatar rejects 'threats, warnings' over MENA

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar on Tuesday rejected "threats and warnings" over its decision to go ahead with hosting a Middle East economic summit with Israel among its participants. "Qatar remains determined to host the Middle East and North Africa economic conference," said the newspaper Al-Raya, which is close to the government. "Every country has the right to oppose it or not to take part in the Doha conference. But no country has the right to resort to threats and warnings," the paper said. Syrian vice president, Abdel Halim Khaddam,

who has lobbied in the Gulf against the conference, last week accused some Arab countries of facilitating Israel's integration into the region. Such countries, which he did not name, would "regret it" and suffer the same fate as the Shah of Iran, who was deposed in the 1979 Islamic revolution, Mr. Khaddam warned. Syria, which has boycotted three such economic conferences held annually since 1994, argues that Israel should not be allowed to reap economic benefits from the region because of its hard line in the deadlocked peace process.

## Musa says peace has reached its lowest point; not optimistic

By Francesca Ciriaci Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The peace process has reached its lowest point since it started, and no effort can be spared to rescue it, Egypt's Foreign Minister Amr Musa said yesterday.

"The peace process is in its deepest crisis, and there is no question about that, and what we are trying to do is to save it," he said. The respect of the internationally established principle of land-for-peace and the implementation of the agreements already reached, Mr. Musa reiterated, are the main keys to break the three-month deadlock in Arab-Israeli peace negotiations.



Since its decision, in March, to build a Jewish settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arab east Jerusalem, "Israel has moved the peace process in a diametrically opposite direction to that [agreed upon in the 1991] Madrid conference."

The Egyptian foreign minister added that "the

Foreign Minister Fawaz Tarawneh receives Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa Tuesday, who paid the Kingdom a short visit to address the ILS leadership conference on his way to Syria (Photo by Yousef Allani)

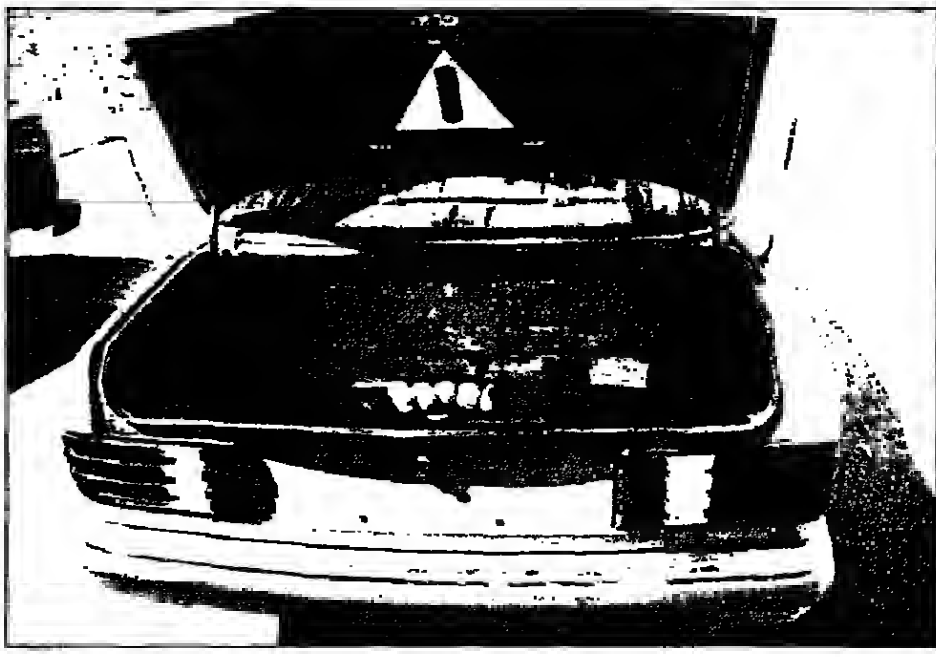
(Likud-led) Israeli government (of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu) is putting in danger all what has been achieved," since 1977, when Egyptian-Israeli peace negotiations started. "Boundaries, refugees, Jerusalem and stashed issues should be dealt with according to the provisions so far reached," Mr. Musa urged. As for the political status of the Holy City, Mr. Musa said: "Jerusalem should be negotiated, not unilaterally annexed." Opposing Mr. Netanyahu's slogan "security for peace," Mr. Musa called "for a mutual security arrangement, balanced, agreed upon and accepted by all parties to the peace

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## Police make largest drug bust in history of Jordan, Arab countries

By Rana Hussein Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The authorities Tuesday said they busted the largest ever narcotics smuggling attempt in Jordan and the Arab World, confiscating heroin and opium with an estimated street value of JD6 million.



The director of the Anti-Narcotics Department (AND), Colonel Nazih Shreideh, said a total of 47 kilograms — 31 kilograms of heroin and 16 kilograms of opium — were found in the possession of five individuals last Saturday. This is the largest amount to be seized in Jordan, Col. Shreideh told reporters, adding that it was intended to be transported to neighbouring countries. The official would not elaborate on the destination of the drugs. "We received tips from agents in neighbouring

countries and put the suspects under surveillance (for 10 days), after they entered Ramtha border and then arrested them at dawn

Saturday while attempting to deliver the drugs which came from Turkey," the police official said. He added that the alleged

smugglers had hid the drugs in the patrol tank of a Mercedes 300 car, "which

(Continued on page 7)



## Lebanon truce panel again calls for civilians to be spared

BEIRUT (AFP) — The international committee monitoring a cease-fire in south Lebanon fell short Tuesday of naming any of the warring parties responsible for the violence and again called for civilians to be spared.

The monitoring group reaffirmed that relevant authorities are responsible for the manner in which they conduct their military activities and for exercising prudence when innocent civilians might be affected," it said.

The panel did not explicitly blame any of the parties to the conflict for the recent wave of violence in south

Lebanon, which has caused several casualties and damage.

The ruling came after a 19-hour meeting at U.N. headquarters in the border town of Naqoura to discuss two Lebanese and three Israeli complaints of alleged truce violations.

The committee — made up of France, Israel, Lebanon, Syria and the United States — was set up to monitor an April 1996 agreement which put an end to Israel's 17-day "Grapes of Wrath" offensive against the Iranian-backed Hizbollah guerrilla.

The accord prohibits the targeting of civilians or

launching attacks from civilian areas.

Hizbollah spearheads the guerrilla war to force Israel out of the self-declared "security zone" it set up in south Lebanon in 1985 to prevent cross-border attacks. The panel said it "accepted as factual" that three roadside bombings took place last week in the buffer zone, killing four people — including two soldiers with Israel's allied South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia — and injuring two other people.

On the Lebanese complaints, the committee confirmed that three shells fell in the Christian village of

Maghdush near the southern port city of Sidon, damaging a civilian house.

It said Lebanon held that the shells were "fired deliberately" while the Israelis said they were not offensive arms and that the incident was minor.

Lebanon had also protested at threats by Israeli army officers to imprison all men in Amoun, expel women, burn crops and destroy homes if resistance guerrillas carried out anti-Israeli attacks from the village near the border zone.

But the monitoring group did not make any ruling on the issue.



IN SOLIDARITY WITH PRISONERS: Palestinians in the West Bank town of Ramallah demonstrate in solidarity with Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails who held a one-day hunger strike in their prisons on Tuesday to protest poor conditions and maltreatment (AFP Photo)

## Iranian dissident writer on trial for alleged espionage

TEHRAN (AFP) — Iranian dissident writer Faraj Sarkuhi, arrested in February amid widespread Western condemnation, has been charged with espionage and attempting to flee the country, the authorities announced Tuesday.

Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi revealed the charges against Mr. Sarkuhi, 49, former chief editor of the literary monthly Adineh, at a news conference here and indicated that a first court session had already taken place.

The writer has been charged with "spying for a foreign country and attempting to illegally leave the country," said Mr. Yazdi, a leader of the conservative faction within the Iranian government.

He did not give the name of the country, but indicated that Mr. Sarkuhi had sent confidential material abroad.

The chief justice suggested that a first session of the legal proceedings had already been held, but did not give the date or place of the trial.

He said it would be up to the judge trying the case to decide whether Mr. Sarkuhi would be tried publicly or in secret.

"According to the law he can have a lawyer, but given the espionage charges, the hearing could be held behind closed doors, without the presence of the public or foreign observers," Mr. Yazdi said, refusing to predict the outcome.

Mr. Sarkuhi was among 134 writers and journalists who signed a petition in October 1994 calling for more freedom of expression in Iran.

He was arrested first time in July 1996 along with several other Iranian intellectuals while dining here with the German cultural attaché in Tehran.

Released shortly afterwards,

Mr. Sarkuhi was arrested again in early November as he prepared to take a flight for Germany, where his wife lives.

At the end of January, a German newspaper published an anguished letter from the writer in which he said he had been detained in appalling conditions by the Iranian intelligence services until Dec. 20.

He later appeared at a state-organised press conference to state that he had actually been in Germany during his absence.

Iranian authorities subsequently said the writer had been arrested in early February on "very serious charges."

Iran's 1996 penal code, based on the Islamic laws of Sharia, calls for the death penalty in cases of spying, notably for the Islamic republic's main foes Israel and the United States.

But the Ayatollah said Mr. Sarkuhi would be allowed to appeal any verdict.

Observers here said the Mr. Sarkuhi case could lead to a further deterioration in relations between Iran and Germany.

Germany, along with several other Western countries and human rights groups, has voiced concern over the writer's fate and has urged Tehran to shed light on the case.

But Iran has warned them not to interfere.

Relations are currently strained between Tehran and Bonn over a German court verdict on April 10 accusing the Islamic republic of involvement in the 1992 murder of four Iranian opposition leaders in a Berlin restaurant.

In the aftermath of the verdict, Iran and Germany each recalled their ambassadors and expelled four diplomats.

## Kuwaiti prosecutors cleared of receiving suspect payoffs

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — A judicial probe has cleared four public prosecutors of allegations that they received suspect payoffs while working on a high-profile corruption case, a Kuwaiti newspaper said Tuesday.

The supreme judicial council ordered a probe following allegations that prosecutors on the Kuwait Oil Tanker Company (KOTC) corruption case received illegal payoffs.

"The investigation papers reviewed by the council members did not include anything to indicate a criminal offence by the four prosecutors," Chief Justice

Mohammad Rifai said in a statement in the English-language Arab Times.

But Mr. Rifai added that there had been "procedural mistakes they are not responsible for."

The prosecutors were alleged to have received payoffs from KOTC to cover travel expenses for the KOTC investigation. But the probe found the "action of accepting money from the company was within the law," the Arab Times reported.

The issue surfaced when the London-based Arabic daily Al-Sabq Al-Awsat published a letter allegedly from the justice minister.

## Illegal foreigners make up one in five of new AIDS cases in Israel

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Of the 60 new cases of AIDS registered in Israel over the past four years, 20 per cent were among illegal foreign workers, according to a report published Tuesday.

But the head of the Israeli AIDS Treatment Centre, Zvi Yost, told the Haaretz newspaper that the organisation has lost track of many of those infected with the killer disease, most of whom came from Africa.

Israel has some 100,000

illegal foreign workers mostly from Romania, Thailand, the Philippines and West African countries.

Israeli Health Minister Yehoshua Matza has warned of an outbreak of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) among foreign workers and called for additional services to help prevent the spread of the disease.

Israel's health ministry has on record 1,393 people infected with HIV, which

causes AIDS, and another 86 who have progressed to the full-blown phase of the disease, as at the end of 1996.

But the ministry estimates that some 4,000 people are actually infected with the virus, out of a population of around 5.8 million.

Israel has brought in about 100,000 legal workers to replace Palestinians prevented from reaching day jobs in Israel by repeated security closures of the

West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Another 100,000 foreigners have entered the country illegally in recent years, many of them concentrated in rundown neighbourhoods of Tel Aviv.

The right-wing government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has announced various plans to reduce the number of foreign workers and has even set up internment camps for illegal immigrants awaiting expulsion.

## Sudan opposition vows to step up armed struggle

ADDIS ABABA (AFP) — The Sudanese National Democratic Alliance (NDA) has decided at a conference in Asmara to "intensify the armed struggle" against the Khartoum regime of President Omar al-Bashir, an official told AFP by telephone Monday.

NDA, which groups southern rebels and northerners who have taken up arms, will

step up operations "throughout Sudanese territory," Mansur Khalid, the alliance's foreign secretary, told AFP's Addis Ababa bureau.

He warned companies working in war zones to suspend operations "because they could become targets."

NDA decided at the conference in the Eritrean capital, which started last Wednesday, to give "moral and material

support" to opposition forces for "the final assault," Mr. Khalid said.

He added that the alliance also rejected "so-called peace plans" signed in April between rebel splinter groups and Gen. Bashir's regime, and rejected the prospect of any agreements with Khartoum, "whether they be bilateral or multilateral."

The latest round of the civil

war in Sudan started in 1983, when the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) under John Garang went on the offensive to free the largely Christian and Animist south from domination by the Arabised Islamic north.

The SPLA now controls much of the south, but has failed to capture Juba, its main city. Fighting is continuing in the north.

## British woman accused of illegal sex in Morocco

KENITRA (R) — A British woman appeared in a Moroccan court on Monday charged alongside her boyfriend with "illegal sexual relations" after alleging earlier in a newspaper that he and a friend had raped her.

The woman, a 44-year-old legal worker from the central city of Birmingham, arrived in Morocco on June 12. Sex outside marriage is illegal under Moroccan law.

She appeared in court in an

ankle-length beige dress, silver necklace and her long hair done in Rastafarian style. She looked nervous as she sat in the body of the court. Her co-accused was held in the dock.

The court case followed her complaints of rape and robbery by her boyfriend, a university student aged 30.

Her boyfriend's lawyer, seeking bail, told the court: "These accusations are revenge and do not reflect the truth."

The court in Kenitra, 35 kilometres north of Rabat, adjourned the case until Wednesday at the request of the boyfriend's lawyer, who said he needed time to examine the court reports.

The woman's lawyer, Naema Oulal, told Reuters: "The court is examining a case of illegal sexual relations (against both) and a charge of robbery against the man. There is no mention of rape in the court reports."

Legal sources said the woman, who is not being held in custody, told the prosecutor that her boyfriend had made love to her "violently" and stole her earrings which she said cost about \$496. She had then gone to police and complained.

But the sources said her statement to the police did not mention violence, and this was only mentioned in the prosecutor's report and the earlier newspaper story.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Lebanon electricity workers stage strike

BEIRUT (R) — Lebanese electricity workers Tuesday staged a one-day strike to demand higher wages, a spokesman for the electricity workers syndicate said. The spokesman said a total of 5,000 public sector electricity workers across the country took part in the strike also seeking greater benefits and medical care after retirement. He said workers in other public sectors including water and transportation were expected to stage a one-day strike Wednesday.

### Iranian killed by lightning bolt

TEHRAN (AFP) — A 20-year-old Iranian was killed and his friend injured by a bolt of lightning which struck the Iranian capital Monday evening, radio Tehran reported Tuesday. The two friends were sitting on a park bench in southwest Tehran when the lightning hit, causing 100 per cent burns to Mohammad Ghossein, the radio said. Around 15 people, mainly villagers, have been killed by lightning in Iran since last year.

### S. Arabia to deport 17 child beggars

RIYADH (AFP) — Saudi Arabia is set to deport 17 child beggars from the Indian state of West Bengal, all girls aged between 6 and 12, the daily Arab News reported Tuesday. A source at the Indian consulate general in the western city of Jeddah, quoted in the newspaper, said the children were apparently the last of groups of child beggars deported to India between January and March. The children will be sent back to West Bengal by sea or air "in a couple of days," the source said, adding that two of them were slightly handicapped.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

### PROGRAMME TWO

3:30 ..... Holy Koran  
3:35 ..... Soccer Match  
5:30 ..... Border Town  
6:00 ..... French Programmes  
7:00 ..... News in French  
7:30 ..... News  
Headline  
7:35 ..... Grace Under Fire  
8:00 ..... Soldier's Diary  
8:30 ..... Challenges  
9:10 ..... Spencer for Hire  
10:00 ..... News in English  
10:30 ..... Land's End  
11:15 ..... American Gothic

### PRAYER TIMES

03:51 ..... Fajr  
05:27 ..... (Sunrise) Duha  
12:38 ..... Dhuhr  
16:18 ..... 'Asr  
19:50 ..... Maghreb  
21:25 ..... 'Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifiah, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Tel. 771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771571.

Amman International Church Tel. 5516245

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932.

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology

The weather will be fair and winds northwesterly moderate.

On Thursday and Friday, temperatures will drop and will be 3-4 degrees below their seasonal average. In Aqaba it will be hot and winds northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman ..... 18/31

Aqaba ..... 24/39

Deserts ..... 17/35

Jordan Valley ..... 21/37

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 32, Aqaba 40

Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 32 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### NIGHT DUTY

Dr. Khalil Al Tustaq ..... 757253

Dr. Wafiq Qaidum ..... 893542

Dr. Nasser Ibrahim ..... 830432

Dr. Bahjat Bader ..... 832642

Firas pharmacy ..... 661912

Ferdows pharmacy ..... 890280

Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055

Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730

Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Natronah pharmacy ..... 623672

Najib pharmacy ..... 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Ghazi Ta'ammth ..... 250080

Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Walid Nabhan ..... 995743

Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre. 637111

Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Rescue Police 192. 621111. 637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101

Blood Bank ..... 775121

Highway Police ..... 843402

Traffic Police ..... 896390

Public Security Department 630321

Hotel Complaints ..... 605800

Price Complaints ..... 661176

Water and Sewerage Complaints ..... 89 7467

Amman Municipality Complaints ..... 787111

Telephone Information (directory assistance) ..... 121

Overseas Calls ..... 010230

Central Amman Telephone Repairs ..... 623101

Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101

Jordan Television ..... 773111

Radio Jordan ..... 774111

Water Authority ..... 680100

Jordan Electricity Authority 815615.

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 08-53200

Queen Alia Int'l. Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:

Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32

Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, 642441/2

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140

Palestine, Shmeisani 607071

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 845845

Al-Musasher Hospital 667227/9

The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37

Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/26

Al-Bashir, ..... 775111/26

Army, Marka ..... 891611/15

Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50

Amal Hospital ..... 674155

The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery .865199

ZARQA:

Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)990990

Ibn Al Nafees Hospital 19-20

AQABA:

Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.

Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:05 ..... Damascus (RJ)

09:25 ..... Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)

10:15 ..... Laranca (RJ)

15:55 ..... New York, Amsterdam (RJ)

17:40 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)

18:05 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

19:05 ..... Rome (RJ)

19:10 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)

19:55 ..... Frankfurt, Athens (RJ)

19:55 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)

19:20 ..... Rome (RJ)

00:15 ..... Beirut (RJ)

01:05 ..... Cairo (RJ)

04:25 ..... Singapore, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)

05:45 ..... Muscat (RJ)

### Other Flights

09:15 ..... Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)

11:00 ..... Sanaa, Hudaidah (LY)

12:00 ..... Jeddah (SV)

13:00 ..... Al 'Arish (PF)

13:10 ..... Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)

13:15 ..... Cairo (MS)

13:50 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)

14:30 ..... Tunis (TU)

15:05 ..... Vienna (OS)

16:20 ..... Algiers (AH)

17:00 ..... Doha (Q7)

19:30 ..... Istanbul, Damascus (PK)

21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)

21:10 ..... Paris, Damascus (AF)

23:20 ..... Istanbul (TK)

23:25 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

23:30 ..... Athens (OA)

05:15 ..... Ankara (TK)

07:50 ..... Amsterdam (GA)

12:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)

20:10 ..... Colombo (RJ)

20:35 ..... Beirut (RJ)

21:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)

21:10 ..... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)

21:15 ..... Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)

21:20 ..... Bombay (RJ)

21:40 ..... New Delhi (RJ)

23:00 ..... Muscat (RJ)

23:30 ..... Muscat (add) (RJ)

02:30 ..... Dubai (add) (RJ)

23:45 ..... Sanaa (RJ)

### Other Flights

06:50 ..... Lamaca (CY)

08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)

09:50 ..... Amsterdam (



## Queen, prime minister close UNU/ILA leadership programme

AMMAN (J.T.) — The 1997 leadership programme of the United Nations University/International Leadership Academy (UNU/ILA) ended Tuesday with a closing ceremony at the University of Jordan, where Her Majesty Queen Noor, chair of the UNU/ILA International Advisory Board, distributed certificates to the programme's 170 participants, a Royal Court statement said.

The Queen told participants that they are and will be "an integral part of this academy" and expressed her hope that they "will all remain active members in the future."

She said that the interpersonal, multi-cultural interaction, which was highly valued by the participants, validates the prime minister's dream of the academy being a means of joining people.

The Queen expressed optimism that the academy would begin to achieve "a process of globalisation of solidarity."

The 1997 leadership programme featured workshops and interactive discussions with distinguished keynote speakers, such as Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Norway's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Jan Egeland and former President of the European Parliament Simone Veil, according to the statement.

These presentations covered five main categories: The United Nations and global leadership, leadership skills, south leadership, peace and security, and international leadership, according to the statement.

Travel in the region is the final component of the programme and partici-

pants are scheduled to leave tomorrow on a two-week study visit to Palestine, Israel and Egypt.

The International Leadership Academy, based in Amman, is the first global leadership training facility as well as the first U.N. institution to be initiated and established in the Middle East.

According to its director, Dr. Adel Safy, the UNU/ILA "seeks to provide training in leadership skills and attitudes while fostering commitment to sustainable development, sustainable democracy, civil society institutions, and peaceful resolution of disputes."

Queen Noor was received by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, University of Jordan President Fawzi Gharaibeh and UNU/ILA Director Dr. Adel Safy.

## Man receives 7-year prison term for daughter's death

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Criminal Court Tuesday sentenced a 41-year-old man to a prison term of seven-and-a-half years with hard labour for the death of his daughter in Azraq last year.

Taysir Ahmad was originally charged with the premeditated murder of his daughter Amal, 28, and initially handed a 15-year sentence which was later reduced by half as his family dropped charges.

According to court documents, the victim, who was married for one year, was divorced by her husband six months prior to the incident.

He claimed that he divorced her as she was not a virgin and due to family problems.

According to court transcripts, Ms.

Ahmad then moved in with her grandparents, "however, she was demonstrated disrespect for them and asked her father to permit her to return home."

On August 17, Mr. Ahmad accompanied his daughter to his house, tied her up, tied a second rope to a rafter, and placed a barrel beneath it, the court said.

He then took his daughter to the room, untied her and said "this is a noose, and if you continue to demonstrate rudeness and cursing, I will hang you," according to the transcripts.

Ms. Ahmad then climbed upon the barrel, placed the rope around her own neck and answered, "I have heard these threats before — if you are a real man, then do it," the documents said.

Mr. Ahmad pushed the barrel with

his foot and left the room, they added.

The following day, he entered the room, cut the rope, placed his daughter on a bed and turned himself in to the police, the court stated.

The court decided to amend the original charges of premeditated murder to manslaughter "due to extenuating circumstances, the victim's provocation of her father and her bad comportment."

The tribunal affirmed that it relied on Mr. Ahmad's confession to police as well as testimony of several relatives who attested that Mr. Ahmad stated "I killed her and rid you (the family) of her."

The verdict, handed down by Justices Abdul Rahman Tawfiq, Mithel Mubeidin and Ismail Hnawi, will automatically be reviewed by a higher court within 30 days.

## Premier briefs Cabinet on UAE visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday briefed the Cabinet on the outcome of his talks with United Arab Emirates (UAE) leaders during a recent visit there.

The visit culminated in the signing of three loan agreements, offered by the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), and jointly worth \$25 million, to aid Jordan with its fiscal budget and finance the Kingdom's trade with other Arab countries.

The Council of Ministers also approved an economic council recommendation allowing the private sector to undertake major investments in electric power projects. The National Electric Power Company is to purchase generated power from private sector companies to meet the country's needs for such.

The Cabinet also formed a delegation to hold negotiations for Jordan's entry into the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

It also approved a draft agreement regarding a \$4,873,883 grant to Jordan from the United States to buttress a national strategy on creating job opportunities for Jordanians.

The Cabinet then endorsed a \$16 million U.N. World Food Programme grant to Jordan to be activated between 1997 and 2002 to finance the development of highlands and pastures. It authorised Minister of Planning Rima Khalaf to sign the agreement.

During the session, Minister of Interior Nahir Rashid reported on the situation in Deir Alla where bulldozers from the Jordan Valley Authority Sunday destroyed several partially constructed homes and water irrigation installations in the village of Dirar, triggering a confrontation between authorities and local residents.

Subsequent to the meeting, Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Munawi confirmed that the prime minister will travel to Tunisia Wednesday for an official three-day visit.

## Royal Wings signs air transport agreement

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Wings, a subsidiary of the national airline Royal Jordanian (RJ), Tuesday signed an agreement with Jordanian and Israeli hotels and tourist offices to promote tourism between Amman and the Israeli city of Haifa.

The agreement, signed in Amman, stipulates that Royal Wings will operate flights between the two cities, transporting tourists to either city for a time period of four days. These tourists are slated to stay in five-star hotels and visit tourist sites in the two countries.

Signatories of the agreement include the Fort Grand Hotel in Amman, Dan Karmel and Dan Panorama hotels in Haifa, Royal Tours in Jordan, Nazarine Tours in Haifa and the Haifa tourist promotion office as

well as its tourism programmes development department.

The agreement stipulates that each tourist pay \$299 to cover air transport, tours and breakfast.

Last February, Royal Wings initiated 45-minute flights between Amman and Haifa and earlier launched flights between Amman and Tel Aviv.

The airline, which owns two 50-seat planes, has been operating two daily flights between Amman and Aqaba and a weekly flight to the Egyptian city of Sharm Al Sheikh.

Royal Wings is owned by Royal Jordanian with one per cent owned by the RJ Employee Savings Fund.

## Population growth to be addressed

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lower House of Parliament Population and Development Committee Chairman Samir Habashneh Tuesday asserted that as population growth in Jordan is one of the highest in the world, intensive programmes are required to address those traditional social concepts which encourage large families.

In announcing that the newly-formed Arab-African Parliamentary Forum will hold its first meeting in Amman in August, Mr. Habashneh stated that participants will seek to develop a general strategy on the role of parliaments in addressing population and development issues.

It is incumbent on the Kingdom to emphasise skilled manpower to increase food production and achieve a balance between resources and population, the deputy added.

In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Habashneh affirmed that during the meeting of the Amman-based forum, national committees on development and population will be created.

He added that the House committee plans to organise a workshop in conjunction with the National Population Commission (NPC) and the U.N. Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) to promote parliamentarians' roles in dealing with development and population concerns.

The authorities concerned must exert efforts to stem rural to urban regional migrations and encourage investment in projects based in rural areas to create jobs and curtail urban migration, Mr. Habashneh stated.

Unless short, medium and long-term programmes are devised to deal promptly with a rapidly expanding population in Jordan, the number of persons living in the Kingdom will increase from the present four million to 12 million by the year 2020, placing additional burdens on the Kingdom's resources.

## Seminar to tackle environmental concerns

By Tanya Habjouqa  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The price of environmental degradation will ultimately be greater than those profits earned from projects which harm the environment, Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) Head of Fundraising and Public Relations Salma Atie asserted.

The RSCN is hosting a seminar today dealing with such issues as copper mining, women's empowerment, and the need to implement environmental assessment plans prior to construction and dumping projects.

Businesspersons, environmentalists and social workers alike will attempt to reach a compromise on what constitutes sustainable development and discuss related issues.

"We have a diverse panel whose main objective is to raise public awareness," Ms. Atie explained.

The seminar is divided into three sessions — nature and the economy, nature and family, and nature and culture.

Possible environmental damage through copper

mining in the Wadi Dana region will also be debated between environmentalists, businesspersons, and geologists.

Ms. Atie stressed the need for integration of environmental protection with culture, family, and the national economy.

Jordan Cement Factories Company Director General Abu Allah Khatib, geologist Kamal Jreisat, and environmental consultant Ali Anani will lead economic and nature discussions.

Reinforcing the role of women in economic and environmental decisions is [also] a main focus of the seminar, Ms. Atie told the Jordan Times.

Allotting women a greater role in allocating resources will increase awareness and make a notable impact on their children, Ms. Atie affirmed.

Head of the General Union for Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Khatib, Attorney Asma Kader, and RSCN board member Mona Zawaideh will lead discussions on nature and family.

Friends of Archaeology President Lein Fakhouri will discuss methods in which the rehabilitation of

archaeological heritage can merge with national heritage, resources, and the needs of the local community.

The solution to many environmental hazards is the implementation of mandatory environmental assessment plans before any enterprises are carried out, Ms. Atie explained.

Environmental expert Ra'ed Daoud will lecture on the necessity of environmental assessment plans, she added.

The RSCN will submit final recommendations upon the conclusion of the seminar which will be published in the next RSCN issue of Reem magazine.

"Despite divergent views, I believe that we can [resolve issues plaguing the] environment," she concluded.

Confirmed seminar attendees include members from the Royal Scientific Society (RSS), the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities, the Natural Resource Authority (NRA), SOS Village, Amman, UNICEF, ESCWA, UNDP, and other non-governmental organisations, according to one RSCN official.

Correction: In Monday and Tuesday's edition of the Jordan Times, President of the Thai Global Holding Company Kim Wama was erroneously identified as a former Thai minister. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

**CONCERT**  
Musical performance by the Romantic Piano Land band at the Royal Court, 8 p.m.



NEW DELHI (R) — India Tuesday rallied behind an agenda for peace talks with Pakistan that analysts called a balanced commitment to ending half a century of enmity.

Foreign policy experts cautioned that the dialogue was in its nascent stages and no one was expecting a quick fix.

While both sides agreed at high-level talks in Islamabad that ended Monday to tackle the thorniest issue, Kashmir, no mutually acceptable solution was yet on the horizon, they said.

But the diplomats' efforts won widespread backing, even from a leader of the Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which has long cast a jaundiced eye on talks with Pakistan.

"We are in favour of continuing the dialogue," senior BJP member Krishna Lal Sharma told Reuters.

Asked if his party was upset that India had agreed to discuss Kashmir, Mr. Sharma said: "We are not disappointed. There is no harm in it. There should be no precondition."

Newspapers were unanimously supportive of the decision by the two nations, which have fought three wars since 1947, to set up working groups to tackle all outstanding issues.

"A Good Beginning," "A New Beginning," "A Hopeful Start" read headlines.

The Hindu called it "perhaps the best 50th birthday present that the two estranged neighbours in the subcontinent, India and Pakistan, can give each other."

The pioneer said the agreement was "a measure

## Kashmiri Hindus urged to take up arms against rebels

JAMMU (AFP) — Hindus who have fled separatist violence in the Kashmir Valley were Tuesday urged by a community leader to take up arms to fight back against the Muslim guerrillas.

Agni Shekhar told 5,000 Hindus here that Kashmir's predominantly Muslim government had failed to protect Hindus from Muslim militants.

"Enough is enough," said Mr. Shekhar, who heads a local Hindu group.

"You people should dispose of your electronic gadgets like televisions and buy assault rifles for self-defence and for countering Muslim guerrillas in Kashmir."

The (Kashmiri state) government headed by Farooq Abdullah is too weak to provide you security. We are in touch with some friendly countries from where we will procure arms.

Mr. Shekhar and around 25 of his associates were arrested after the speech for inciting violence.

An estimated 300,000 Hindus have fled the trouble-torn Kashmir Valley since Muslim guerrillas launched a violent drive for independence from India in 1989. The campaign has left around 20,000 people dead.

Thousands of displaced Hindus now live in Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir. Many of them live in tents and huts after having lost their homes.

of the new maturity that suffuses the respective political establishments."

Analysts said that maturity was reflected in the handling of the Kashmir issue, the spark for two of the nations' three wars.

"This is a very clinical attempt to accommodate both sides' mutually intractable claims," said former Foreign Secretary J.N. Dixit, who led India's negotiating team at failed talks in 1994.

Those talks, like others in the past, broke down over Kashmir. Pakistan had wanted the two sides to make progress on resolving their competing claims over the Himalayan region before tackling other issues. India had balked at focusing exclusively on Kashmir and

wanted an open-ended dialogue.

The joint statement was a compromise as it cited Jammu and Kashmir as a separate issue but listed other areas of concern to be addressed in working groups "in an integrated manner."

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said it was the first time that India had recognised Kashmir as disputed. "It is a major breakthrough in Indo-Pakistani relations," he said.

But Indian analysts pointed out that Pakistan had agreed to discuss a range of other issues including peace and security — shorthand for their military standoff — terrorism, drug trafficking and economic cooperation.

"Pakistan would interpret it as a concession, but to India it is an acknowledgement of the importance of Kashmir, peace and security, confidence-building, terrorism all put together," said Bhabani Sengupta, executive director of the Centre for Research on International Change.

"That means Pakistan, too, has made a concession."

Mr. Sengupta said neither side had yet budged over Kashmir, which has been divided between the two since shortly after they won independence in 1947. "It's going to be a long haul, but the fact we continue to talk is far more important than to expect results now," he said.

Jasjit Singh, director of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, said he expected both sides in coming months to zero in on side agreements, perhaps putting an end to a chilly military standoff on the Siachen Glacier in the Himalayas.

The only foreseeable compromise on Kashmir, he said, was for both sides to accept the line of control that has split the region for nearly 50 years to become permanent border.

Mr. Sengupta and Mr. Singh discounted worries that political changes in either country could soon derail the peace initiative. More worrisome, according to Mr. Singh, was Pakistan's ailing economy.

"Pakistan's stability, integrity and its strength are in our interest," Mr. Singh said.



Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui inspects the armoury unit of the Marine Corp during a review of naval weapons at southern Taiwan's Tsongying Base Tuesday. Taiwan began two-days of military exercises with the first day focussing on a display of newly acquired arms (Reuters photo)

## Controversial Taiwan war games reach finale

HENGCHUN (R) — Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui presided over the finale of a two-day military drill Tuesday seen widely as a blunt rejection of China's reunification overtures on the eve of its takeover of Hong Kong.

Mr. Lee praised the war games as a "successful accomplishment" after watching his armed forces show off their combat ability, artillery firing power and newly procured high-tech weapons at southern Taiwan's Hengchun Military Base.

Mr. Lee dismissed concerns about staging the drills just before Hong Kong's July 1 return to Chinese sovereignty.

"This Chinese Glory exercise is one of 13 major exercises under the military's

annual training programmes," Mr. Lee told an assembly of senior officials, military brass and several hundred visiting foreign reporters after the smoke had cleared.

"It has absolutely nothing to do with the inappropriate linkage that some international figures had suspected," he said without elaboration.

The United States had urged Taipei and Beijing not to stage manoeuvres before the British colony's handover, saying this would be "counterproductive" at such a sensitive moment.

Military analysts have said the drills, while testing military readiness, served mainly to put teeth behind Taipei's rejection of reunification with China under the "one country, two systems"

concept being tried out in Hong Kong.

Beijing's official Xinhua News Agency Sunday issued a commentary hailing the local autonomy model as an example for Taiwan's own "reunification with the motherland."

Bolstering Mr. Lee's tacit message of well-armed defence, the drills were aired live on Taiwan Television — making it easy for mainland strategists across the Taiwan Strait to tune in.

Beijing, which views Nationalist-ruled Taiwan as a renegade province, has warned other countries not to arm the island, trying to choke off the exiled Republic of China and bring Taiwan finally under mainland rule.

The Nationalist republic fled to Taiwan after losing a

civil war to the Communists in 1949.

Tuesday's drills began with mock air raids by newly imported U.S. F-16 and French Mirage 2000-5 fighters, followed strafing runs by dozens of rocket-firing, bomb-dropping F-5s.

Commanders hailed the games as a victory for Taiwan's efforts to obtain some of the world's best high-tech weapons in the face of Beijing's strenuous opposition.

U.S.-made Patriot anti-missile missiles, procured to shoot down incoming Chinese missiles, were put on display — but not fired due to their million-dollar price tags.

The military mobilised 2,000 soldiers for the drills, along with dozens of warplanes, tanks and other weapons.

## U.S. Supreme Court rejects White House appeal on Whitewater notes

WASHINGTON (R) — The Supreme Court dealt the White House a major defeat Monday, effectively requiring it to give Whitewater prosecutors notes that government lawyers took during discussions with Hillary Rodham Clinton.

The White House immediately expressed regret that its appeal had been unsuccessful, but surrendered the contested documents to Whitewater independent counsel Kenneth Starr before the close of business Monday.

The High Court rejected a White House appeal, letting stand a U.S. Appeals Court ruling that attorney-client privilege did not apply to the notes, subpoenaed by Mr. Starr as part of a grand jury investigation.

The action was taken without any explanation or dissent and means that the notes, which have been at the centre of a long legal battle, will have to be turned over. It represents a major setback for the White House, the first lady and the Justice Department, all of which urged the High Court to hear the case and rule that attorney-client privilege applied.

Mr. Starr has conducted a long investigation into Whitewater, a complex web of Arkansas business deals involving the Clintons, and into allegations of a later

coverup. President Bill Clinton and his wife have not been accused of wrongdoing.

"The notes were delivered to Starr today," an administration official said, although he declined to give any details on the amount of paperwork involved.

"We continue to believe that government lawyers must be allowed to have confidential discussions with their clients if they are able to provide candid and effective legal advice," White House Counsel Charles Ruff said in a statement.

"We regret that the court has decided not to resolve this important issue," he said.

Mr. Clinton, asked repeatedly about the High Court rebuff as he greeted people after a \$500-a-plate campaign dinner in California, refused to comment.

Outside his office in Little Rock, Mr. Starr told reporters: "Well, we're just very pleased with the Supreme Court's action." He declined to speculate on what the impact would be on his probe.

When asked if new prosecutions were imminent in the probe, Mr. Starr said, "we are taking it a step at a time."

The Supreme Court's denial of the appeal marked Mr. Clinton's second sting-

ing defeat in less than a month. The High Court ruled, unanimously last month, that Paula Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against Mr. Clinton could go forward rather than being put on hold until he left office.

The Whitewater case involved conversations Hillary Clinton had on July 11, 1995, and Jan. 26, 1996. White House lawyers took notes while she talked with her private Whitewater attorney, David Kendall.

The 1995 notes related to her actions after the suicide of White House Deputy Counsel Vince Foster, who previously worked with her at a Little Rock law firm. The 1996 notes dealt with her testimony before a federal grand jury that day about her law firm's billing records for work she did for a failing savings and loan company owned by her Whitewater partner.

The billing records, missing for a time, mysteriously reappeared in the White House family residence and were not turned over to Whitewater prosecutors until two years after being subpoenaed. According to court papers filed earlier, prosecutors described Hillary Clinton as a central figure in the probe and said she had changed her testimony in the course of the lengthy investigation.

## 15 die in Albania violence

TIRANA (Agencies) — Fifteen people died and three police officers were injured in violent incidents across Albania in the past 24 hours, police and hospital sources said Tuesday.

Random acts of violence are on the increase ahead of Sunday's legislative elections.

Albanian President Sali Berisha pushed his party's general election campaign into high gear Monday, saying his Socialist rivals would meet the same demise as their Communist predecessors who seized power in 1944.

Mr. Berisha was addressing an outdoor rally in Tirana after Albania's major parties signed an agreement in Rome pledging to ensure a free and fair ballot Sunday and recognising the need for a coalition government.

Although Mr. Berisha is not up for reelection, he has waged a high-profile campaign to keep intact the large majority his Democratic Party enjoys in Parliament. The vote is viewed by many as judgment on his five years in power.

He said the Socialists were linked to "paid gangsters," a reference to self-styled "committees" which still control some southern regions after violence erupted throughout Europe's poorest country in March. Some 1,500 people have died.

"I am warning them they will not enjoy the fruits of victory if they resort to terror or bloodshed," a boisterous Berisha told the cheering crowd, which numbered no more than 700.

"You and your brothers are understandably upset by gang violence. I pledge that on June 29 these gangs will meet an ugly end. We will tell them that like their predecessors in 1944, they will meet the same shameful end."

Albania was ruled by Eastern Europe's most repressive Communist regime for 45 years and was one of the last countries in the region to throw off one-party rule.

The Socialist though he has been professing

## U.N. gets offers for Congo force; capital calm

BRAZZAVILLE (R) — Shellfire briefly broke the calm in the Congo Republic capital Brazzaville as the West African country's warring sides tried Tuesday to preserve a truce, a precondition for a planned African intervention force.

Senegal and Togo offered troops for the peacekeeping effort which U.N. envoy Mohamed Sahnoun said could be in place swiftly, but for a limited stay.

Brazzaville's Mayor Bernard Kolelas, mediating frantically between pro- and anti-president factions, was to press on with his efforts by assembling politicians in Baongo, a southern suburb he controls.

His mediation moves nearly ran aground Monday when two shells slammed

into houses near Baongo Market, wounding six people and prompting the French ambassador to say he believed someone was trying to sabotage the peace efforts.

The shells were fired during a 90-minute artillery duel that almost derailed the six-day-old ceasefire. It risked dragging the neighbouring Democratic Republic of Congo, formerly Zaire, into the conflict when seven shells landed near its capital Kinshasa.

The truce has dampened fighting that raged for 12 days in the former French colonial capital Brazzaville, killing an estimated 1,000 people. Mr. Sahnoun said even more might have died.

But no day has gone by without some firing, and

Monday's battle was the worst breach so far. The truce is due to last until the weekend.

Mr. Sahnoun said after a summit of eight West African states in Togo that the force of an initial 1,600-1,800 men could be deployed rapidly in Brazzaville, across the Congo River from Kinshasa.

Mediators want the intervention force to help restore order so that democratic presidential elections that were to have been held on July 27 can go ahead.

Brazzaville descended into warfare on June 5 when President Pascal Lissouba tried to disarm a militia run by an opposing candidate for the poll, former leader Denis Sassou Nguesso.

Until the flare-up, the

sleepy city of a million had seemed like a haven of peace to people across the river in teeming Kinshasa, who had feared their own war as Laurent Kabila's rebels neared the city in May to finish off the rule of the now exiled Mobutu Sese Seko.

Mr. Kabila's foreign minister said he believed the country had been deliberately targeted in Monday's shelling, which state television said wounded one man in the former Zaire.

"We could tell precisely where they were fired from," Bizima Karaha said, without identifying the guilty party.

He gave a "final warning" that the country would defend itself if there were any further such incidents.

## Thousands flee battles in Central African capital

BANGUI (R) — Several thousand residents have fled the Central African Republic's capital Bangui for the safety of the countryside after four days of clashes between African peacekeepers and disaffected local soldiers, witnesses say.

Troops from former colonial power France patrolled the city centre Monday and joined peacekeepers on a sweep of southern districts loyal to army mutineers who have yet to rejoin their units under a January peace deal, they added.

"People are afraid of being killed," one resident who stayed said, adding that electricity supplies to the southern suburbs had been cut. "There's an urban exodus to the rural areas."

Medical workers say the clashes, which have included mortar and artillery salvos, have killed at least 30 people and wounded at least 70 in a city which is struggling to recover from three army mutinies in less than a year.

A spokesman for the peacekeepers, Captain Lamine Gueye, described Monday's operation as "one of self defence."

The peacekeepers intervened under the Jan. 25 peace deal to end political and ethnic clashes between supporters and opponents of President Ange-Felix Patasse in the army.

Mali's widely respected former military leader, Amadou Toumani Toure, who brokered the January agreement, said Monday he was returning to Bangui. He said any solution lay ultimately with Central African Republic citizens themselves.

"My role is to help the two parties, the different parties

to agree," he told Radio France International in an interview. "The vital role will always come back to the nationals."

French diplomats said that their embassy, hit by mortar shells Saturday, was struck again Monday. Saturday's salvo wounded seven people, five of them French nationals. No one was hurt in Monday's barrage. French troops are in Bangui under a defence pact.

French helicopters flew over the city and intermittent salvos of mortar and heavy machinegun fire could be heard from various districts. Isolated shots rang out after dark.

One report said that French helicopters opened fire on Camp Kassai, a military barracks housing many former mutineers.

The Bangui peacekeeping force has been touted as a

model for a solution in Brazzaville, capital of the neighbouring Congo Republic where similar political and ethnic clashes killed hundreds of people this month.

Mutinies in April and May 1996 in Bangui began as protests over pay but evolved into a movement to topple Mr. Patasse, a civilian from the north of the country elected in 1993. The third mutiny began in November and degenerated into ethnic bloodshed.

Most of the mutineers are members of the Yakoma tribe of former military leader Andre Kolingba.

The 800-strong African force includes soldiers from Burkina Faso, Chad, Gabon, Mali, Senegal and Togo. A Senegalese soldier killed Friday was among the first casualties of the flare-up.

up.

## After G-8 summit in Denver, Clinton focuses on underprivileged America

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — After touting the exemplary U.S. economy at the weekend G8 summit in Denver, President Bill Clinton flew to California to turn his attention to the millions of Americans denied a share in prosperity.

But at a U.S. mayors' conference in San Francisco and at a Los Angeles school where he unveiled a private initiative providing medical insurance to 50,000 uninsured children Monday, Mr. Clinton had little to offer.

His proposals not only reflect the federal government's increasing helplessness in dealing with the socially marginalised, but also the prevailing ultraconservative political climate.

In contrast with European cities where the underprivileged tend to live in the suburbs, it is the middle class

here who flock to the suburbs leaving urban areas to blacks and other ethnic minorities.

The White House had announced that Mr. Clinton would use his speech to the mayors to unveil an ambitious urban policy.

In fact, he simply presented a series of micro-measures similar to those aired during his 1996 election campaign, which basically propose financial incentives to draw people back to city centres.

One plan calls for curbing rising urban crime by selling some 2,000 police officers cut-rate, inner city federal housing.

Another measure offers to slash \$200 from the purchasing costs of urban housing.

Both measures would cost \$675 million over a period

of five years — a pittance by federal budget standards, but the only realistic sum Mr. Clinton can hope for from a Republican-controlled Congress bent on gutting social programmes.

Earlier Monday, Mr. Clinton was on hand at the Mar Vista Elementary School, west of Los Angeles to bear a major private health insurance company offer \$100 million to insure 50,000 needy children for five years.

More than 40 million Americans, one fourth of them children, lack proper health insurance. These are not needy people, who automatically qualify for Medicaid (federally subsidised health insurance), but people and families who work but cannot afford health insurance.



## Hong Kong passes soft anti-treason law before handover

HONG KONG (Agencies) — Lame-duck Hong Kong lawmakers passed a soft anti-treason law Tuesday in hopes of fending off Chinese-style jailings of dissidents after Beijing takes over the British-run territory on June 1.

The amendments to the crimes ordinance cover treason and sedition, but legislators in the pro-democracy camp managed to muster enough votes to strike down proposed provisions against subversion and secession.

While China strongly criticised earlier drafts of the law, it has stopped short of pledging to have the measure scrapped after next week's handover. But Hong Kong's future leader Tung Chee-hwa has said it will be up to his government to draw up legislation on such sensitive matters.

Passed by 23 votes to 20, following protracted debate and an adjournment late Monday night, the amended law states clearly that only violence, not vocal dissent, should constitute a punishable offence.

The legislators, whose elected assembly is to be dissolved on the stroke of midnight on June 30, also insisted that seditious statements in speeches or publications should not be considered offences.

The original draft amendments, which the British-led government unveiled in November 1996, were already highly contentious and drew heavy criticism.

China slammed Britain at the time for going it alone on the proposed bill, charging it with meddling in the affairs of the future Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) of China and with violating the post-handover constitution, the Basic Law.

Democratic Party legislator Cheung Man-Kwong said during the debate that the anti-treason law could not be used as an excuse for China to suppress freedom of speech in Hong Kong.

Legislators in the pro-China camp said, however, that passing such a law should have been left to an interim chamber, which China helped form last December and which is set to take the place of the elected Legislative Council (LEGCO) on July 1.

"Personally, I believe the legislation should be passed by the SAR legislature, rather than this LEGCO," said legislator David Chu, who is also a member of the interim chamber.

British Governor Chris Patten told reporters that while he preferred the original government draft, the law passed Tuesday was fine.

"I think the bill as it stands is a good one. It provides a very helpful benchmark...I hope the future SAR will find it a useful base for any subsequent legislation that they need on subversion and secession," he said.

"I don't see anywhere in which it is against the basic law."

Meanwhile, British Major-General Bryan Dutton said Tuesday Chinese troops due to enter Hong Kong on June 30 hours before the midnight handover to Beijing are warm and intelligent people who pose no threat.

The commander of the departing British garrison told reporters at his headquarters that the People's Liberation Army (PLA) would have no internal security role in Hong Kong before or after its return to Chinese rule.

"The Royal Hong Kong Police are in control both before midnight and after midnight," Maj.-Gen. Dutton said.

"The military presence here is purely as a manifestation of sovereignty, a largely ceremonial role. I see no possibility of military of either side being involved in an internal security situation," he said.



Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot is interviewed in the Cambodian jungle, in this undated photo. Cambodian government leaders have announced that the guerrilla leader is being held by his former Khmer Rouge allies (Reuters photo)

## Sri Lanka troops approach rebel town

COLOMBO (AFP) — Thousands of government soldiers were closing in on a key town held by Tamil Tiger guerrillas in northern Sri Lanka after a battle that killed 61 people, the Defence Ministry said Tuesday.

An officer and 13 soldiers were killed when troops resumed their advance into territory held by the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) in the northern Wanni region Monday, the ministry said. It said 40 Tiger guerrillas were also killed in one confrontation while seven were killed in another battle near the rebel town of Puliyan-kulam.

"Terrorists having offered resistance initially retreated northwards, since they were

unable to face the advancing troops," the ministry said.

"We were very close to Puliyan-kulam yesterday and it may be possible to go in sometime today," a military spokesman here said.

Security forces began an offensive on May 13 in an effort to open a land route to the northern Jaffna Peninsula.

Despite deploying 20,000 soldiers, the "Sure Of Victory" operation has succeeded in moving only 16 kilometres. Troops have another 60 kilometres to go to reach their objective.

The Jaffna Peninsula, the fountainhead of Tamil separatism, was wrested from rebel control in December 1995 but the area continues to be supplied by air and sea

because the only road to the area is held by the Tigers. Monday's battle ended a 12-day lull in fighting in the northern region. Soldiers began their march Monday from the northern towns of Periyamadu and Nedunkerni which they took from the Tigers last month.

Official figures show 274 soldiers have been killed and the rebels say their losses are much lower. The worst bloodshed came when the LTTE put up a strong counterattack on June 10 and destroyed a military base and ammunition dump near Vavuniya town.

The Tiger guerrillas are campaigning for independence in the island's north and east. More than 50,000 people have been killed in the separatist conflict in the past 25 years.

## Solana: Dispute blocking Bosnia airport accord

SARAJEVO (R) — NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana criticised Bosnian political leaders Monday for failing to sign an agreement to reopen regional airports to civilian traffic.

Mr. Solana had planned to witness the signing of the agreement on civilian air traffic during his visit to Sarajevo but Bosnian Serb politicians raised last-minute objections.

"It's a frustrating thing that small and petty politics are preventing an important decision from being taken," Mr. Solana told reporters.

The NATO-led peace force and Bosnian leaders have been discussing proposals for six months which would restore civilian flights at airports in Tuzla, Mostar and the Serb-controlled town of Banja Luka.

Bosnian Serb representatives raised fresh objections to a proposed deal at a meeting Monday of Bosnia's Central Cabinet, said Michael MacLay, a spokesman for the International High

Representative to Bosnia.

The Serbs opposed formation of a civilian air traffic authority for all of Bosnia, and called on NATO to broker a separate agreement on the Banja Luka Airport with local Serb authorities.

The Serbs argued that the airport in Banja Luka should be treated differently from the Mostar and Tuzla airports, located in the country's Muslim-Croat federation.

The Serbs said Mostar and Tuzla airports were owned by the Yugoslav military before the Bosnian War began in 1992 and should be included in negotiations on dividing assets of the former Yugoslavia.

Mr. MacLay said the Serb position reflected a refusal to accept the authority of a joint Bosnian government set out under the Dayton Peace Accords.

"They are resisting the competence of the common institutions," he told Reuters. Mr. Solana declined to discuss calls by European coun-

tries to extend the NATO peacekeeping mission after its mandate expires in a year's time but hinted the alliance would not allow war to erupt again in Bosnia.

"The only thing I can say is that the international community will not abandon Bosnia. Of course with that sentence a lot of things may fit."

"But I want to again say a decision at this point of NATO and the countries that belong to SFOR (the NATO-led Stabilisation Force) is to keep the operation going until July 1998."

Mr. Solana said Bosnia's former warring factions had to use the time left in the NATO mandate to carry out their obligations in the Dayton treaty.

"We are all very tired of words, of statements. These people do have to take on their responsibilities and move the (peace) process forward."

"This unfortunately is not taking place at the speed and rate that I would like to see."

## U.S. House votes to restart production of Stealth bombers

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives Monday voted to restart production of radar-evading B-2 Stealth bombers despite protests by Defence Secretary William Cohen that buying nine more planes was expensive and unnecessary.

On a vote of 216-209 the Republican-led body rejected an amendment which aimed to eliminate \$331 million funded to restart elements of Northrop Grumman Corp.'s B-2 production line and procure materials for nine more bombers.

The aircraft were included in the \$268 billion defence authorisation for the coming 1998 fiscal year which the House is to vote Tuesday. The total defence funding is \$2.6 billion more than President Bill Clinton requested and has several provisions his Budget Director Franklin Raines warned could lead to a veto.

The Senate next month will vote on its version of the defence bill, which specifically bars more B-2 aircraft. The Senate bill calls

for spending the same total \$268 billion on defence.

Representative Mark Foley, a Republican from Florida and one of those who objected to the cost of the bombers, noted that one of the advanced aircraft would pay for 188,000 economy cars or groceries for 360,577 families for an entire year.

Secretary of Defence William Cohen wrote his objections to the aircraft in a letter to House National Security Committee Chairman Floyd Spence, Republican of South Carolina.

Mr. Cohen said the Pentagon was unanimous in its view that "the cost of further B-2 production cannot be justified." But supporters argued that the funds would help maintain productive capacity of the defence industry and provide necessary military fighting capability.

The black, delta-shaped B-2, which uses special "Stealth" radar-evasion technology to penetrate enemy airspace undetected, was originally developed in the 1980s as a replacement

for the ageing B-1 fleet. The Pentagon bought 21 of the planes for \$44.6 billion and the manufacturer has offered to build another 20 for about \$570 million each.

Office of Management and Budget Director Raines sent a letter to congressional leaders warning that a veto would be recommended if Congress adopted a proposed amendment that would require U.S. troops be withdrawn from Bosnia by a specific date.

The House will consider an amendment to stop funding of U.S. military operations in Bosnia after 1997. If approved it would allow an extension to a final withdrawal date of June 30, 1998, the date the White House has said troops would be removed.

Representative Van Hilleary, Republican of Tennessee, and sponsor of the amendment, noted that U.S. involvement in Bosnia had been extended already beyond the December 1996 original pull-out date.

## Cambodia sets poll date, wants Pol Pot back soon

PHNOM PENH (R) — Cambodian co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh announced a breakthrough agreement Tuesday to hold elections in May, declaring this far more important than the capture of infamous leader Pol Pot.

But Prince Ranariddh said he would not allow the matter of Mr. Pol Pot's return to Phnom Penh to drag on, and warned a Khmer Rouge splinter group it must hand over the hated strongman soon if it wants an amnesty deal.

World pressure has been building since Mr. Pol Pot's capture last Thursday for him to be tried by an international tribunal for his brutal 1975-79 "killing fields" regime, responsible for the deaths of more than one million people.

Prince Ranariddh said he and co-premier Hun Sen had finally agreed on a date for general elections — May 1998.

Prince Ranariddh, speaking at a Pagoda opening on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, said holding the elections was more important for the impoverished country than the hated Pol Pot's capture, which has made headlines around the world.

"Pol Pot is past... For me the elections are much more important," he said. Diplomats had expressed fears about the timing of the elections amid an upsurge in political violence and increased bickering between the two premiers.

Prince Ranariddh said he and his coalition partner wanted to tell U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, originally scheduled to visit Cambodia later this week, that they had agreed on the date.

However, the U.S. State Department said last week that Mrs. Albright was reconsidering her trip because of security concerns following a recent gun battle on the streets of Phnom Penh between bodyguards loyal to the two prime ministers.

"Last night Hun Sen called me about the visit of Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. We will tell them that... May 1998 will be the general election in this country," Prince Ranariddh said.

A power struggle between the two prime ministers and a row over how to deal with the remnants of the Khmer Rouge guerrilla force following Mr. Pol Pot's capture has crippled the government and led to international concern over escalating political violence.

The Group of Seven (G-7) industrial nations and Russia at their recent summit in the United States called for an end to the political chaos in Cambodia and urged the country's leaders to "demonstrate their commitment to holding a free and fair election by setting an exact date."

The current uneasy coalition government emerged from U.N.-sponsored polls in 1993 that followed a peace pact signed two years earlier by rival Cambodian factions.

But Prince Ranariddh has complained that even though he won the largest number of seats in the poll, Mr. Hun Sen, leader of the Communist government which ruled before-hand, has never shared power equitably.

Now, with the election approaching, the two are in a make-or-break struggle for power.

Prince Ranariddh's Royalist FUNCINPEC party wants to strike a deal with more moderate elements in the crumbling guerrilla force, a move that Mr. Hun Sen sees as a threat to the strength of his Cambodian People's Party (CPP) in the run-up to the polls, political analysts said.

More than one million Cambodians died of starvation, disease and hard labour, or were executed as enemies of the Khmer Rouge during Mr. Pol Pot's rule in the 1970s.

Prince Ranariddh Tuesday dismissed doubts that Mr. Pol Pot was being detained by the rebels, but he added that the government wanted a quick return of Mr. Pol Pot to Phnom Penh.

He said arrangements would be made for at least one journalist to be taken to see Mr. Pol Pot, who is being held in the northwest Khmer Rouge base of Angkor Veng, to put an end to the scepticism.

"We have to talk about days, otherwise I cannot trust them," the prince said of the breakaway faction which turned against Mr. Pol Pot earlier this month.

"If they are asking for an amnesty they have to be logical. And hand over Pol Pot to us," he said.

China Tuesday indicated it would oppose an international war crimes tribunal for Pol Pot and other Khmer Rouge leaders.

"The Khmer Rouge issue, including the question of Pol Pot, are internal affairs of Cambodia. It should be up to the Cambodian people to handle them," Foreign Ministry spokesman Cui Tiankai told reporters.

## Sunni chief's lawyer, Shiite killed in Pakistan

LAHORE (R) — Gunmen killed a lawyer working for the leader of a militant Sunni Muslim faction in Lahore Tuesday and a Shiite Muslim activist was shot dead in the Punjab provincial town of Khairpur Tameywalla, police said.

They said gunmen on a motorcycle shot Khalid Ahmad, a lawyer for Azam Tariq — leader of the militant Sunni Sipah-i-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP) organisation — near the High Court building in the centre of Lahore, the Punjab provincial capital.

Ahmad, who had also been riding a motorcycle, was shot on his way to the court. Police said he died on the spot. Mr. Tariq succeeded to the SSP leadership after his predecessor, Zia Ur-Rahman Faruqi, was killed in a bomb blast in Lahore in January. Mr. Tariq was seriously wounded in that explosion.

In a separate attack, police said unidentified gunmen killed a Shiite activist named Ala Wasaya in Khairpur Tameywalla, 100 kilometres south of the central Punjab city of Multan.

Khairpur Tameywalla was the scene of a mass killing on April 25, when gunmen shot dead nine people, including six Shiites and three Sunnis, in a busy market area.

No group claimed responsibility for the latest killings, but they appeared to be part of a long-running feud between Sunni and Shiite factions which has cost dozens of lives this year.

Differences between hardline groups among Pakistan's minority Shiites and majority Sunnis have often spilled into violence, especially in the populous province of Punjab.

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## Women can win effort

THE EFFORTS the Princess Basma Resource Centre and other civil society organisations are exerting towards helping women secure seats in the coming Parliament are very commendable. For months now the Centre has been organising seminars, conferences and visits to different parts of the Kingdom in a bid to mobilise women taking an active part in the coming elections. The Centre and women activists who have volunteered to work for this cause have shown that they are well-aware of the problems that they face and of ways to tackle them.

Although there still are major obstacles standing in the way of women reaching Parliament, the effort to organise and mobilise is in itself worthy of attention, if not outright essential for developing this country's women movement. With dedication and hard work the women should be able to put their agenda on top of the list of issues that will form the subject matter of the elections. While no-one expects that more women than men will ultimately be elected to Parliament, by going through the experience they would gain greater experience in electoral campaigning, on the one hand, and highlight their and their children's problems, on the other.

Although there is little hope to convince many men to vote for them, women should not limit their campaign to their own issues. They should address all the problems that pertain to society.

Meanwhile, women should concentrate their efforts on explaining to others how they could improve their condition at home, at the workplace and throughout the country. What is more important, however, is for women campaigners to get female voters to back women candidates.

According to a recent poll, only about one per cent of men might be expected to vote for women. But if women candidates can convince 20 per cent of their own to vote for them they could send at least eight female deputies to Parliament. That would be a marked achievement on which much can be built in the future.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Ra'i daily Tuesday criticised Bassam Emush, an Islamist member of Parliament, who, he said, has been warning against allowing foreigners to buy property in Jordan or Jordanian companies shares. Fahed Faneek said that the deputy has been raising the hue and cry over reports that foreigners were buying shares in the phosphate, potash and cement factories, claiming that this poses a serious threat to the national economy. If Jordan wants to develop and attract investors in its various projects, it must open the door to foreign investors, otherwise it will remain isolated and its national economy will remain paralysed, said the writer. According to the writer, since the start of 1997 and until the middle of June, only JD 25.9 million worth of shares have been bought by foreigners in the Amman Financial Market whose total shares are worth JD 357 million, accounting for one per cent of the total value of shares traded in the market. The writer said that the deputy ought to make thorough studies of the reports about foreign investments and purchases of shares before issuing warnings against foreign hegemony in the national economy. He said that Jordan has to do everything in its power in order to attract investors in a bid to invigorate its economy.

A WRITER for Al Ra'i reviewed reports about Israeli inhuman treatment of Arabs in Palestine, citing an Amnesty International report issued last year about such atrocities and Israel's arrest of 1,600 Palestinians who were detained without trial. Izzeddin Manasrah said that the Israelis have been condemned by the world organisations for ill treating the Palestinians and for confiscating 97 per cent of the West Bank and 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip to build Jewish settlements and for maintaining a siege on the occupied Arab lands. He said that these Israeli actions and the continued building of Jewish settlements on Arab lands are enough causes for the world community to impose sanctions on the Jewish state. Referring to a recent European Union declaration in Amsterdam, supporting the Palestinian people's rights and demanding that Israel give up its present policies and occupied Arab lands, the writer said that although such declaration is a positive development, nothing short of world community's sanctions on Israel can stop the present government in Tel Aviv from pursuing its aggression.

## The Washington Watch

# U.S. Congress' resolution on 'reunification of Jerusalem' — 'display of gratuitous power'

By Dr. James Zogby

PRO-ISRAELI bulldozers rolled through the U.S. Congress on June 10 and, once again, made rubble of integrity and intelligence.

In a blatant display of gratuitous power, Congress overwhelmingly passed a resolution to commemorate the "30th Anniversary of the Reunification of Jerusalem." On one level, the resolution was unnecessary. It was also quite dangerous.

As a non-binding resolution, this congressional action added nothing new to U.S. policy. It was, for the most part, a reminder of the "1995 Jerusalem Embassy Relocation Act" in which Congress mandated that the United States declare Jerusalem as the undivided capital of Israel; move the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem; and appropriate \$100 million to build the embassy.

That 1995 act passed only after the administration succeeded in having it amended to include a waiver provision that allowed the president to delay implementation of the act on "national security grounds."

Once the waiver was in place, the congresspeople who knew the act was wrong felt free to vote for it, knowing that their irresponsible behaviour would be covered by the president's postponements. The lopsided 1995 vote was, therefore, to some extent, based on crass opportunism.

Much the same happened with this year's resolution. Many members described

the pressure campaign mounted by the pro-Israel lobby and some of their colleagues as extraordinarily intense — with repeated visits by pro-Israeli groups and implied threats if they voted against the bill.

In the end, many congresspeople who knew that the resolution was bad policy submitted to the pressure to vote for it thinking that their votes would have no consequences. Some even likened their votes to a bone thrown at a barking dog.

The final vote, 406-17, was not a measure of pro-Israel conviction but a mixture of opportunism, cowardice and the ability of a well-financed, powerful group to intimidate and win.

The victory provided the lobby and the hard-line group in Congress that supports them another opportunity to boast of their dominance. They went further, passing a resolution denouncing the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) for killing Arabs who sell land in Israel.

The passage of this resolution was called "repugnant" and speaker Newt Gingrich even termed Palestinian behaviour "Nazi-like." Only a few brave congressmen raised their voices against the resolution calling it "one-sided" and "divisive."

Emboldened by these victories and displays of power, the pro-Israel leadership in the House now has its eyes set on doing real damage by either stopping U.S. aid to the

Palestinians or placing even further insulting conditions on that aid.

The congressional leaders in this effort for the most part never supported the peace process or aid to the Palestinians in the first place. While they had some difficulty in stopping aid in the years after Oslo, they now see an opportune moment to strike a new blow at the PNA.

*"The final vote (on U.S. embassy's move to Jerusalem), 406-17, was not a measure of pro-Israel conviction but a mixture of opportunism, cowardice and the ability of a well-financed, powerful group to intimidate and win."*

Through all this one-sided debate in Congress, Arab Americans and allies of a balanced U.S. role have acted without a strong supportive voice from the administration.

Administration spokesmen have issued statements critical of the Jerusalem vote and have restated U.S. support for the PNA and the U.S. aid programme, but they have not fought vigorously for these positions in the Hill.

Some have compared the subdued and passive administration response to these congressional actions with the subdued U.S. role in the peace negotiations. There is growing criticism of what is being described as the failure of the administration to act more deci-

sively during this current crisis. Criticism once heard only from Arabs and Arab Americans is now coming from some liberal Jewish groups, respected foreign policy analysts, and even the Council of Foreign Relations.

But while this criticism grows in the U.S., it fell onto the young people of Hebron and Gaza to issue the most dramatic rebuke

to send a wake-up call to the Congress.

Arabs and Arab Americans have responsibilities to act. A joint strategy can and should be developed to challenge the resolutions of Congress, in save lies and the possibility of peace. This is a struggle that can be won. The power of the headline lobby is largely due to the fact that they have been left uncontested. There is, however, growing sentiment in the United States for a balanced pro-peace Middle East policy, and this includes significant segments of the American Jewish community. But this sentiment must be organised and focused in Congress.

Arabs must do their part to make clear to Congress and the U.S. public that irresponsible resolutions and legislation have damaging consequences — to U.S. standing and interests in the Middle East, to U.S. allies and to the search for peace. This message must be sent.

For our part, Arab Americans must organise public sentiment and directly press Congress in a concerted campaign. Some members of Congress who consistently act against peace must be challenged directly. Embarrassing some members of Congress in their districts and actually contributing to their defeat in elections may be the best way to send the message that the damage done by irresponsible behaviour must be stopped.

# 'Arafat's defeatist rule has made him become a national disgrace to his cause and his people'

By G. H. Jansen

BY FAR the single most important development in the Palestinian national struggle in recent months has been the tussle between the president of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), Yasser Arafat, and the legislature, the 88-member council chosen by universal franchise in the Palestinians' first ever general election in January 1996. Arafat, who resents any attempts to poach on his powers, has, in the 15 months since the council was inaugurated, either sidelined the body or used it to rubber stamp his own policies, while the council has tried, sometimes valiantly, sometimes half-heartedly, to establish a separation of powers between the executive, legislative and judicial arms of the authority.

Marwan Barghout, council member and secretary general of Arafat's own Fateh movement in the West Bank, complained about the tension between the executive and legislature because "the president does not respect and implement our decisions." For instance, Barghout said that the executive had submitted the authority's budget to the council for its approval four months late. And when the Legislative Council criticised Arafat's policies and actions, he discourages the media from reporting its debates.

Last spring, however, it seemed as though the council might make a breakthrough to the people who elected its members when Al Quds Educational Television began broadcasting live, gavel to gavel, the council meetings. These broadcasts, relayed by independent television channels all over the West Bank, were a sensation with the Palestinian public and boosted the standing of the council which had, previously, been seen as an ineffective talking shop. To

counter this unwelcome development, Arafat's official television station began jamming the broadcasts.

Then the executive intervened to stop the broadcasts altogether when, at the end of May, the council began to debate corruption in Arafat's cabinet and administration which had either embezzled or mis-spent \$326 million, or 40 per cent of the annual budget, during the authority's first full year of operation, 1995-96.

Daoud Kuttub, a well-known journalist and publicist who operates the television station which had contracted with the council to broadcast its sessions, on May 20, was visited at home, at eleven o'clock at night, by the Palestinian police and asked to report forthwith to police headquarters in Ramallah. When he did so, he was told to wait to be informed of why he had been called in. Kuttub spent four days and nights in various offices at police headquarters where he was given a mattress on which to sleep and took his meals with officers who were not informed of why he was being held. His wife who suffers from cancer did not visit him but his children were permitted to do so on one occasion. Eventually, he was moved for three days in a cell in the local prison. During this time, he was not told why he had been arrested and was not charged for any crime. He has not yet been told why he was held and has no intention of inquiring. Kuttub counts himself lucky that he was not physically maltreated by his captors as were two Palestinian human rights activists previously held without charge.

Under pressure and threat from Arafat's minions, the local Arabic language press did not speak up for Kuttub so those who had ordered his detention thought that silence meant his case had been buried.

But this was not at all the case. For word of the police action spread quickly and Kuttub became a national hero. Since Kuttub holds a U.S. passport, the U.S. Consulate in East Jerusalem was compelled to protest the police action. Furthermore, as he is a well-known local journalist and broadcaster, both in Palestine and abroad, loud protestations were raised on his behalf, especially by the World Service of the BBC, for which he does commentaries from time to time, and by the CNN. Even some Arab governments, like that of Egypt, called for his release. Arafat's police gave the cause of freedom of debate "a big victory." Kuttub told this correspondent, although Al Quds University, the sponsor of the educational television station has suspended temporarily the broadcasts of the council sessions.

As a result of the bull-buloo over corruption Arafat was compelled to dismiss his attorney general, one of the flagrantly corrupt members of his administration, and to release to the press an audit of the authority's accounts revealing the missing millions.

The revelations of financial mismanagement had unforeseen consequences. Palestinians were surprised to find that the international donors who fund the authority were not particularly angry or upset about the losses. Why? The answer to this question is that there are some governments — which are not friends of the Palestinians, like those of Israel and the U.S. — which are prepared to support Arafat whatever he does because his policies serve their interests — and not the interests of the Palestinian people.

Palestinian informants, commenting on this curious alliance between the corrupt Palestinian Executive, Israel and the U.S., believe there is a conspiracy afoot. Indeed two

conspiracies. One, a conspiracy of silence about Arafat's corruption and authoritarianism and the other, an intelligence conspiracy aimed at keeping him in power. Thus, Yasser Arafat, "Mr. Palestine," finds himself in the unhappy position of being sustained in power and supported not by the love and loyalty of his own people but by his powerful co-conspirators in the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency and the Israeli General Security Services.

Why has this desperate and despairing state of affairs come about? Quite simply because Arafat accepted defeat. He accepted that "the armed struggle," violent resistance to the Israeli occupation, is useless and should be ended. If necessary, by force applied by his own security services. This negative and defeatist policy has reached the stage where members of the groups who continue to resist, like Islamic Jihad and Hamas, are, without formal charge, arrested, jailed and tortured, even unto death in ten cases.

Instead of being the revered "Mr. Palestine" of the struggle for national liberation, Arafat has become a national disgrace to his cause and his people.

Palestinians believe that Arafat will rule only as long as he continues to serve the interests of his external sponsors, but once he has outlived his usefulness, he will either be killed or a coup will be mounted against him and he will be replaced by another willing collaborator. Meanwhile, Israel's policy of expanding Jewish settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza erodes whatever is left of his credibility and makes it all the more difficult for him to return to the negotiating table. And the recent U.S. congressional resolution calling upon President Bill Clinton to recognise all of Jerusalem as Israel's exclusive, "undivided and eternal capital," has put an end to whatever credibility Washington had as peace broker and intermediary.

## LETTERS

# Media wrong on media unit

To the Editor:

THE JORDAN Times is to be commended for the way it covers issues in various spheres.

However, the article "Media unit, to assist women candidates, officially inaugurated at JNFW" (Jordan Times, June 24, 1997) covered by Rana Hussein and Ghaila Alul, has the following incorrectly stated facts:

- The media unit was officially inaugurated Monday by the Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre and not by the Jordanian National Forum for Women, as stated.

- The media unit was established by the Princess Basma Women's Resource Centre in cooperation with the European Union only. The Centre for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan had no part in its establishment.

Ashtar Lutfi,  
Project Manager,  
Jordanian National Forum for Women,  
Amman.

## Investor's quest

By Ali Kassay

ONE OF the most remarkable features of our world is the great progress made in children's games. For centuries, children had to devise or make their own games. Then, around the time of my childhood, big industries entered into the field, starting with dolls for girls and guns for boys, then moving into the realm of board games.

One of the first such games was Monopoly, which was received with great excitement all around the world. I remember the long evenings during which families and friends would congregate for the purpose of playing the game. I remember the joy engendered by the acquisition of each new piece of property, and the exasperation of any player who had the misfortune to land on the slot marked: "Go to jail, move directly to jail, do not pass Go, do not collect two hundred!"

These days are long gone. Now children play electronic games either on the television or on the computer, with amazing titles such as "Quest for glory" or "Hero's quest". These games, as most of us know, are played at a variety of difficulty levels and some highly imaginative plots, including good and evil spirits that are evoked to help the hero or the villain, as the case may be.

Unfortunately, most of these games suffer from one drawback: they are too fantastic. The plots are set either in the distant past or the future. This means that they lose some of their pedagogic value, in that they do not prepare the young for the present world.

Therefore, I thought of starting a new industry in Jordan, to create electronic games whose plots are drawn from reality. One game, for instance, could be called "Investor's quest". The objective of the game would be for the player to establish a lucrative enterprise in Jordan by overcoming all sorts of hurdles, like government regulations, securing the necessary permits, paying registration fees, cutting through the red tape, equipping his enterprise with the necessary telecommunications and other equipment, clearing his plant and machinery or other imports through customs, securing a loan, paying bank interest rates, etc.

The player would have a choice of various levels of difficulty. For instance, he/she could start off a very high official, a relation of a very high official, a very close friend of a very high official or, for those who really like a hard challenge, they could try to set up their enterprise as an unconnected ordinary citizen.

At the start of the game, the player would have a stock of wasta which he depletes as he overcomes hurdles, starting with easy ones, like employees away for prayer, then progressively more difficult ones. Like officials inexplicably absent, officials who are present, and finally, the most difficult of them all, officials who are present, and whose tribe is not related by blood or matrimony to that of the investor.

Of course, the objective of the game would be to prepare our young for the life ahead, and to instill in them pride in the amazing progress achieved in creating an investor-friendly environment. Should they reach a different conclusion from playing the game, all players move directly to jail.



## Ciller rejects coalition with Yilmaz

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's two rival conservative leaders failed on Tuesday to agree on forging a secularist alliance under the leadership of prime minister-designate, Mesut Yilmaz.

"I did not discuss the government issue, so as not to legitimise Mr. Yilmaz's position," Deputy Prime Minister Tansu Ciller told reporters after 20 minutes of talks with Mr. Yilmaz.

"We said to Mr. Yilmaz, 'Go immediately and return the mandate to the president,'" Ms. Ciller said.

President Suleyman Demirel on Friday asked Mr. Yilmaz to form a government to end months of

political turmoil but Ms. Ciller, who previously served as Turkey's first woman prime minister, says she should have been nominated for the job.

She said she would offer Mr. Yilmaz the chance to join a coalition under her leadership if he failed to cobble together an alliance in the coming days.

"When we get the mandate we will ask Yilmaz to come and join us in a broad-based government," she said.

Falling market confidence in the chances of a secularist coalition brought shares back down to earth following a buying spree on Monday

day fuelled by hopes that Mr. Yilmaz was on course to form a new government.

The main Istanbul index closed down 5.07 points.

"The market was irritated by the possibility that the (Ciller's) conservative True Path party may not support the new alliance," said Okan Gulek from Taksim Securities. Shares had soared eight per cent on Monday.

Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan, an Islamist, resigned last week after frequent disputes with the army over religious activism.

He now backs a pro-Islamist alliance headed by

Ms. Ciller, who has served as Mr. Erbakan's coalition partner for the last year.

A leftist leader said he would support Mr. Yilmaz's secularist grouping, although it is still around a dozen votes short of the simple majority needed to win a confidence vote in the 550-member parliament.

"We are in favour of giving a vote of confidence to the new government," leader Deniz Baykal told a meeting of his Republican People's party deputies.

The Turkish press says Mr. Yilmaz is trying to woo True Path members into his proposed alliance at the expense of Ms. Ciller.

## Musa says peace...

(Continued from page 1)

process).

"Let us recommit ourselves to the implementation of the agreements achieved in Oslo and Madrid," he said, describing such "recommitment" as "the only way to put an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict."

"There is a price to pay for the achievements of peace, and we have to convince our constituencies that peace is worthy of that price," he said, calling on Mr. Netanyahu to "have the courage to respect international agreements and work for peace."

In a three-hour visit here, Mr. Musa, who was

addressing participants in a leadership programme, maintained that Washington is the major broker in the Mideast peace process but added that "the EU role is important to support the U.S. role."

Answering a question on whether the U.S. policy is biased in favour of Israel, — especially after the U.S. veto, a month ago, to a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning the construction of Jewish settlements on Arab lands and the Congress' recent recognition of Jerusalem as the capital of the Jewish state, — Mr. Musa said "we need the continuation of the American role as an honest broker."

He praised the Denver communiqué, issued on Monday by the leaders of the world's eight top countries, backing the principle of land-for-peace and calling on the parties to the peace process to implement the Oslo accords and uphold the principles of Madrid.

Referring to a recent Egyptian initiative to put the peace process back on track, which did not receive any response from Israel, Mr. Musa commented: "I should be optimistic, but in fact I am not."

The proposal presented to the Israeli government by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, senior advisor, Osama A. Baz, focused on

halting settlement building and expansion, and initiating joint Palestinian-Israeli consultations on security issues.

Notwithstanding the failure of the Egyptian initiative, "efforts should continue," Mr. Musa said.

After the lecture, the Egyptian foreign minister and Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali held a brief close-door meeting.

Speaking briefly to reporters after the meeting, the two leaders said they discussed the current status of the peace process and preparations for Dr. Majali's official visit to Egypt, scheduled for next month.

## Israel slams G-8 summit backing of land-for-peace deal with Palestinians

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israel was "astonished and disappointed" by a declaration from the world's leading industrial states which backed Palestinian territorial claims but failed to condemn Palestinian violence, a senior Israeli official said Tuesday.

David Bar Ilan, a senior advisor to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, protested that the statement on the Mideast peace process issued Sunday at the end of a Group of 8 summit in Denver was "one-sided and disappointing."

"Israel is astonished and disappointed that the Group of 8 didn't mention in their communiqué what

(U.S. President Bill) Clinton said in his press conference concerning the need for the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to fight terrorism," he said.

To their declaration, the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Russia and the United States said: "We shall do our utmost to reinvigorate implementation of the Oslo accords and to uphold the principles of Madrid, including the exchange of land-for-peace."

"The peace process faces a crisis and we are determined to reinject momentum into it," they said. "Both sides must refrain from actions that impeded

the peace process by preempting permanent status negotiations," they warned.

On Monday, PNA President Yasser Arafat welcomed the G-8 communiqué.

"The Palestinian leadership warmly welcomes the statement of the economic summit in Denver on protecting the Middle East peace process," Mr. Arafat said.

"We hope Israel will adhere to its commitments under signed peace accords particularly by stopping all unilateral acts, such as settlement activity and the confiscation of lands," he said.

The Middle East peace

process launched in Madrid in 1991 calls on Israel to hand over land seized in the 1967 war in exchange for security and other guarantees from its Arab neighbours.

But Mr. Netanyahu has balked at the idea of land-for-peace and accused the Palestinians of failing to deliver on security commitments contained in the 1993 Oslo accords.

The Israeli-Palestinian peace process has been deadlocked since March 18 when Israel broke ground on a new Jewish settlement project in Arab east Jerusalem, which the Palestinians hope will be the capital of a future state.

## Iraq holds back access despite U.N. threat

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq has declined to commit itself to granting full access to U.N. arms inspectors despite a Security Council resolution which threatens new sanctions, a senior disarmament official said Tuesday.

Charles Duelfer also revealed that the focus of U.N. inspections was now on Iraq's biological weapons programme dating from before the 1991 Gulf war.

"Iraq indicated that it will continue its cooperation with the special commission," Mr. Duelfer told reporters at the end of a mission which he started Saturday. "But Iraq did not indicate how it will react to the recent Security Council resolution, in particular whether it will provide full access to information and documents the commission requires for its work," he said.

Mr. Duelfer, deputy chairman of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, said his talks with Iraqi officials had been "constructive and business-like."

But he complained of a general "lack in information and data" from Baghdad ever since the Gulf conflict.

"The government of Iraq has said for many years that it has given everything, but the commission has not been able to verify it," said Mr. Duelfer, a U.S. national.

He singled out the biological file as the least complete, compared to inspections on Iraq's chemical and nuclear weapons as well as proscribed missiles with a range of more than 150 kilometres.

"The least well understood, well documented and well verified is the biological file," followed by that on Iraq's chemical arsenal, he said. "The most mature is the missile file."

Mr. Duelfer said "the uncertainty of the agents in the biological weapons file makes this file the most important now."

Iraq has rejected as "unacceptable" the Security Council resolution passed on Saturday that threatened unspecified new sanctions if Baghdad continued to fail to cooperate with UNSCOM, setting an October deadline for progress.

Official newspapers warned Tuesday that the resolution has set the scene for a new showdown with both the United Nations and United States.

"The acts of provocation and violation of Iraq's sovereignty will multiply in the coming months, forcing Baghdad to retaliate to defend its integrity and security," said the Babel daily run by President Saddam Hussein's son Uday.

"The United States will in turn react and push through a new (U.N.) resolution prolonging the embargo," which has been in force since Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, it predicted.

## Eight Arab countries...

(Continued from page 1)

diplomat said.

Syria, which boycotted the first three economic conferences in Casablanca in 1994, Amman in 1995 and Cairo in 1996, has proposed creating an Arab common market.

The Syrian press said the economy ministry is drawing up a plan for a common market for the Damascus Declaration countries.

The Damascus Declaration, concluded after the 1991 Gulf war, calls for economic, security and

other types of cooperation between the signatory countries.

It has never been implemented, but the eight members' foreign ministers meet periodically.

The Middle East peace process, frozen on various tracks, will also be a topic for discussion at the meeting, the diplomats said.

A Saudi official said that Prince Abdullah and Mr. Assad will talk about "ways to combine Arab efforts to onblock the Middle East peace process."

The Syrian press said

Saturday that Egypt would inform its partners of the results of its attempts to relaunch Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, broken off three months ago.

Syria, whose negotiations with Israel have been frozen since February 1996, enjoys the backing of the seven other countries in its position that Israel must exchange land for peace.

The diplomats also said the Damascus Declaration countries will discuss the long-standing dispute between the UAE and Iran

over three strategic Gulf islands, Abu Musa and Greater and Lesser Tumb.

"This matter takes on a particular importance at this time, as Iran wants to turn a new page in its relations with Arab countries, especially the Gulf monarchies," one said.

The Damascus Declaration countries will also discuss Turkish-Israeli military cooperation and the Turkish military offensive in northern Iraq which began May 14, the diplomats said.

## Netanyahu survives no-confidence vote

(Continued from page 1)

doned soldiers wounded during a military training exercise. An initial inquiry commission has cleared Mr. Barak, but the incident is still being examined by the state comptroller. Mr. Hanegbi's tirade sparked a shouting match, with several opposition Labour Party legislators ordered to leave the parliament. The Third Way party, a member of the coalition with four legislators, said it would abstain in Tuesday's vote unless Mr. Netanyahu and Mr. Hanegbi apologised.

The speaker ordered a one-hour recess to cool tempers.

Mr. Netanyahu spent the day meeting with potential defections from his coalition and trying to work out a cabinet reshuffle.

But no agreement was reached on the new ministerial appointments, and Mr. Netanyahu's office said they would not be announced Tuesday.

The delay was due to last-minute demands made by Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon as a condition for his moving to the finance ministry. Mr. Meridor resigned as finance minister last week after a bitter dispute with Mr. Netanyahu over foreign currency liberalisation.

Mr. Sharon, a former defence minister who engineered Israel's ill-fated 1982 invasion of Lebanon, demanded to be included in the small forum of ministers setting strategy in Mideast peace talks.

Until now, Mr. Netanyahu has only consulted Foreign Minister David Levy and

Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai — relative moderates in the centre-right government — about the peace talks with the Palestinians.

Including Mr. Sharon in the select group could spook the Palestinians, political commentators said. "Mr. Sharon is considered in the Arab World to be a very militant hawk and this might cause tensions between Israel and the Arab World to increase," said Hemi Shalev who writes for the Maariv daily.

Among the legislators who did not support the government Tuesday were Mr. Levy and four legislators of his Geshet Group, as well as five disenchanted lawmakers from Mr. Netanyahu's Likud Party. Geshet had joined the Likud slate for the May

1996 elections.

Mr. Levy was quoted as saying Tuesday the government would become increasingly unstable and unable to reach difficult decisions in the peace talks with the Palestinians. Radio and TV reports said Mr. Levy was considering resigning over Mr. Netanyahu's broken promises to do more to help Israel's poor, the key constituency of Geshet.

Benny Begin, who resigned as science minister in January over Mr. Netanyahu's decision to pull troops out of most of Hebron, said Likud members should examine how the party has reached such a stage of disarray. "It can't go on like this," said Mr. Begin, son of former prime minister, Menachem Begin.

## Police make largest drug bust

(Continued from page 1)

made it hard for border inspectors to detect it."

"The smugglers divided the gas tank into three compartments and hid the drugs in one of the sections," Col. Shreideh explained.

The official did not disclose the identity of the five individuals who were arrested, other than saying they were Arab and foreign

nationals, aged between 30 and 37.

The police official said Jordan is a "defence line" against the illegal trade since it is geographically situated between drug producing and drug receiving countries.

"We know that most drug dealers use Jordan as a transit point, but we want them to know that we will not allow any of these smugglers to use Jordan as

a base for drug smuggling," Col. Shreideh stressed.

He said that the department is in constant contact with the authorities in neighbouring countries in a joint effort to combat drug trafficking.

Police statistics indicate that a total of 68 kilograms of heroin and 43 kilograms of opium were seized in the Kingdom last year.

On the local level, Col. Shreideh said the department was able to unravel 16 cases of drug dealings in the past two weeks, in which 30 people were involved.

According to Col. Shreideh, the confiscated drugs, along with other contraband seized in previous drug-combating operations, will be burnt Thursday in the kilns of the cement factory in Fuheis.

## Israel tests plans to recapture West Bank and Gaza Strip

(Continued from page 1)

AFP that a test-simulation of the scenario had been run.

But the information on Israel Radio was not "completely accurate," he said, asking not to be named.

Israeli military officials are preparing for clashes with Palestinian police similar to the ones which took place in September through-

out the West Bank and Gaza and which left more than 80 dead, mostly Palestinian civilians, the radio said.

Over the past 10 days, tensions have been high in the West Bank city of Hebron, where clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian protesters have left 170 protesters injured, most lightly, by rubber-coated bullets.

Israeli and Palestinian

leaders have warned of a new escalation of violence, with the failure of diplomatic efforts to end the stagnation of the peace process caused by Israeli settlement policies.

Over the three-month crisis, support among the Palestinian public for the self-rule authority has diminished.


A poll by the Nablus-based Centre for Palestine Studies showed 65

per cent of the inhabitants of the territories wanted the resignation of the authority because of corruption.

The PNA has full control of 60 per cent of the Gaza Strip and three per cent of the West Bank. It has administrative control of another 27 per cent of the West Bank where the Israeli army holds security control.

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# Saudis see oil price rebound

VIENNA (R) — Saudi Arabia joined forces with Gulf rival Iran Tuesday to demand that other members of the oil group OPEC stop violating mandated production quotas to cut excess supply and help buoy sagging world oil prices.

But the Saudis appeared confident that rising demand for petroleum later this year would support the market, even under the pressure of OPEC output that is running at a 17-year high.

The ministers of OPEC kingpin Saudi Arabia and Iran, the group's second biggest producer, both spoke to lobby reporters ahead of a ministerial conference of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) which begins Wednesday.

The likely outcome of the talks will be a decision to freeze current quotas for six months from June 30, well-placed delegates said.

Saudi Oil Minister Ali Naimi declared that "a rollover is good if everyone

adheres to their quota...We would like everyone to honour their commitments."

But he softened the blow with his assessment that oil markets could support current actual OPEC production, assessed by the Saudis at up to two million barrels daily in excess of the officially mandated 25.03 million barrel ceiling.

"Demand is good. There is no reason for prices to go lower," he told reporters.

Iran's minister, Gholamreza Azghadeh, was blunt in saying that something had to be done about discipline if prices — down to \$18 per barrel from \$25 six months ago — were to be secure.

"Any decision without stopping the violations does not pay," he said.

Delegates said privately that apart from giving a closed session tongue-lashing to the Venezuelan minister, Erwin Arrieta, and other alleged violators, it was hard to see what the rest of OPEC could do to

police better quota discipline.

Petroleos de Venezuela, the Venezuelan state oil company, has said that OPEC ought to abandon quotas altogether and opt for a policy of expanding its share of the world market.

Mr. Arrieta says he will not actually demand that at this week's session, but that he would like to air ideas for change.

The Saudis meanwhile seem to put most trust in a seasonal, northern winter upswing in fuel demand.

"The market is right now healthy," said a Gulf source. "You cannot be certain but the most likely case is that prices will improve in the third quarter."

This source said that although there had been a build up in oil industry stocks, these were still lower than last year in terms of forward days cover of global demand. The OPEC pre-conference ritual unfolded at customary leisurely pace. OPEC

pencilled in 1300 GMT on Tuesday afternoon for a session of what it calls its quota compliance committee.

This comprises Iran, Indonesia and Nigeria. Nigeria, monitors say, is another cash-pinched Third World seller that is exceeding its quota.

Arab Gulf OPEC oil ministers — of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar — also had informal exchanges of their own during Tuesday.

Crude oil futures prices ticked higher, with London August North Sea Brent Blend advancing above \$18 per barrel for a gain of some 40 cents since early Monday.

But traders said OPEC was of less influence than renewed tensions between Iraq and the United Nations.

They cited a continuing delay on further Iraqi oil sales under a U.N.-supervised oil-for-food deal that partially relaxes Gulf war sanctions.

## G-7 summit masks differences on trade, economy

DENVER (R) — Top industrial nations sounded broadly satisfied with the shape of the world economy and the constellation of currency rates at their Denver summit, but the happy talk masked differences that could spell trouble ahead.

The differences range across a number of issues — from what to do about Japan's rising trade surplus to how to tackle sky-high unemployment in Europe — that are key to the future course of the world economy and financial markets.

In an economic statement, the leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) welcomed signs of an improving world economy but said more needed to be done to ensure that the good times continued and everyone benefited.

"We have been encouraged by the many positive indicators in our economies," the G-7 said. "But we still have work to do in our own economies."

The group set out economic objectives for each of their countries — the first time that the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States have done that at a summit since 1993. But they failed to spell out in detail how the goals would be realised — and that's where the disputes lie.

Perhaps the most glaring

difference — and the one of most immediate interest to the world currency market — is sparring between the United States and Japan over the latter's mounting trade surplus, which more than tripled in May.

In a news conference after the summit ended, President Clinton warned that a continued climb in the surplus could eventually lead to economic war between the two countries.

"If we return to a time when we've got exploding trade deficits then that will once again move front and centre into our relationship in a way that won't be good for either country," he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, speaking at a separate news conference here, blamed the rise in Japan's trade surplus in May on temporary factors and said he did not expect it to continue to climb sharply.

"I do not think that Japan's trade and services surplus will increase significantly," Mr. Hashimoto said through an interpreter.

For the moment, the United States seems willing to give Japan the benefit of the doubt, but it made clear that it would monitor developments closely — and so will the financial markets.

If Japan's surplus continues to climb, that could spur dollar sales, disrupting what Mr. Hashimoto

described as the recent calm in the currency market.

Trouble may also lie ahead in Europe, where this month's stunning election victory for a Socialist-led coalition in France raised fresh doubts about the region's plan to launch a single currency in 1999.

In their statement, the G-7 leaders welcomed Europe's efforts to forge monetary union but stressed that the new currency, the euro, must be backed by sound economic policies.

The statement masked unease among Europe's partners about a project they recognise may be politically inevitable but which they fear will get off to a shaky start.

"It is simple," a senior Canadian official told reporters. "We want a successful euro because we don't want them to screw up the financial markets."

A senior U.S. official voiced concern that Europe's preoccupation with monetary union could divert countries there from tackling other key issues, including how to restructure their economies to reduce unemployment.

The United States held up its own economy — with its combination of 23-year low unemployment and 30-year low inflation — as a model for others to follow. But some European countries,

particularly France, did not seem to enjoy being lectured to.

Dominique Strauss-Kahn, France's new Socialist finance minister, insisted Paris was not going to adopt the kind of "hire-and-fire" flexible labour policies being urged by London and Washington to cut its record 12.8 per cent jobless rate.

"We have no interest in flexibility in the Anglo-Saxon sense of the word," he told reporters. "What is important is to improve the ability of individuals to become employable."

In an effort to promote job creation, the socialists have promised gradually to reduce the working week in France from 39 hours to 35 without a loss of pay — a strategy that was greeted with scepticism by some other G-7 nations here.

Perhaps in reaction to the U.S. criticism of their performance, some European policymakers here gently reminded Washington that it too could face economic problems down the road — in the shape of higher inflation.

"The subject of inflation has come up again," German Economics Minister Guenter Rexrodt said, in apparent reference to the United States. "There is no urgent problem...But the issue is in the air."

REUTERS

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## The Business of Information

Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7238	0.6003	1.4378	114.77	1.3894	1683.50	1.9386	5.8140
DE Mark	0.5801	1.0000	0.3479	0.8336	66.55	0.9057	978.91	1.1281	3.3755
GB Sterling	1.6658	2.8730	1.0000	2.3947	191.11	2.3145	2804.20	3.2288	9.5863
CH Franc	0.6955	1.1925	0.4171	1.0000	79.84	0.9659	1171.44	1.3487	4.0484
JP Yen	0.0087	1.5013	0.5228	1.2522	1.0000	1.2103	14.67	168.97	5.0701
CA Dollar	0.7197	1.2445	0.4340	1.0363	1.21	1.0000	1216.33	1.4000	4.1928
IT Lira	0.0008	1.0224	0.3559	0.8053	1470.16	0.8242	1.0000	11.51	3.4528
NL Guilder	0.5158	84.86	0.3082	74.10	59.12	0.7161	868.02	1.0000	2.9597
FR Franc	0.1720	0.2961	0.1030	24.6808	19.70	0.2357	33.32	33.3200	1.0000

Middle Eastern Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.0000	1.7238	0.6003	1.4378	114.77	1.3894	1683.50	1.9386	5.8140
Jordan Dinar	1.4124	2.4275	0.8326	5.1410	424.86	5.1873	2168.79	4.7874	13.9787
GB Sterling	0.2666	0.4598	0.16006	0.38357	30.611	0.46959	0.16346	0.39171	31.2607
Bahrain Dinar	2.65	4.541	1.6304	13.034	1066.0	1.6304	6747.16	15.911	47.8911
Qatar Dinar	0.2747	0.46959	0.16346	0.39171	31.2607	0.46959	0.16346	0.39171	31.2607
Kuwait Dinar	3.3107	5.6959	2.0346	16.265	1321.6	2.0346	8283.60	18.312	52.9229
Emirates Dinar	0.2723	0.46611	0.16248	0.38611	31.022	0.46611	1818.00	4.6100	13.2207
Lebanese/1000	0.65	1.1161	0.4030	3.2704	269.18	1.1161	463.02	1.0000	2.9597
Egyptian	0.2650	0.4547	0.16226	1.3704	111.70	0.4547	1818.00	4.6100	13.2207

Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Brent	18.15	17.56				
WTI	18.15	16.85				
Bonny	18.15	17.55				
Dubai	17.05	16.83				
UL Gas	180.00	181.00				

Mid-East Currencies					
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
SA Riyal	0.2666	0.4598	0.16006	0.38357	30.611
AE Dirham	0.2723	0.46611	0.16226	1.3704	111.70
KW Dinar	3.3107	5.6959	2.0346	16.265	1321.6
BH Dinar	0.2723	0.46611	0.16226	1.3704	111.70
CY Pound	1.9532	3.3641	1.171	2.8059	224.016

Metal Prices		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Gold (oz's)	338.4	338.9				
Silver (oz's)	4.77	4.79				
Platinum (oz's)	409	414				
AL (3 Months)	1982	1985				
CU (3 Months)	2491	2495				
Zinc (3 Months)	1404	1406				
Lead (3 Months)	518	521				
NI (3 Months)	7170	7190				

Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)					
Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	1 Year
USD	5.50	6.70	5.84	5.87	5.97
GBP	6.48	6.75	6.93	7.12	7.18
JPY	0.89	0.59	0.65	0.43	0.81
DEM	3.03	3.05	3.06	3.12	3.17
FRF	3.24	3.31	3.32	3.36	3.41
CHF	1.24	1.30	1.36	1.19	1.47
ITL	6.80	6.63	6.62	6.48	6.40

Main Equity Indices						
Bourse	Index	Value	Change	% Chng	High	Low
NewYork	DOW JONES	7670.76	68.5	0.87	7685.58	7607.65
NewYork	S&P 500	884.75	6.13	0.7	886.23	878.82
London	FT-SE 100	4593.5	17.7	0.39	4598.6	4578.5
Tokyo	NIKKEI 225	20341.83	-84.21	-0.46	20383.3	20215.1
Paris	CAC 40	2790.14	27.94	1.01	2795.53	2748.43
Frankfurt	DAX	3755.82	1.1	0.03	3758.63	3741.26

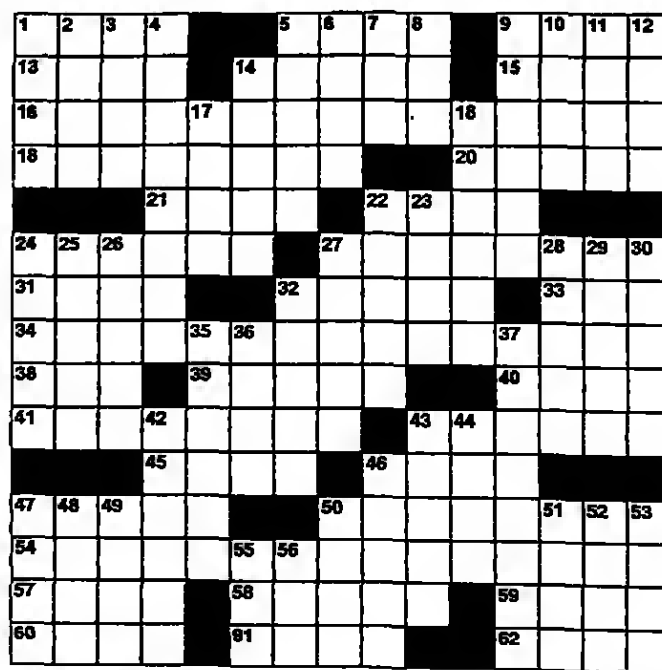
Energy		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
Coffee (c/lbs)	194.75	Spot				
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1715	Spot				
Sugar (\$/ton)	324.5	Spot				
Wheat (\$/ton)	141	Spot				
Soya (c/lbs)	22.55	Spot				
Tea (c/lbs)	138	Spot				
Barley (\$/bsh)	0	Spot				
Rice (\$/ton)	490	Spot				

JOD Cross Rates		USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY
US Dollar	0.708	0.710				
GB Sterling	1.378	1.155				
DE Mark	0.4117	0.4138				
CH Franc	0.4946	0.4971				
FR Franc	0.1221	0.1227				
JP Yen	0.6191	0.6222				
NL Guilder	0.366	0.3678				
IT Lira	0.4200	0.4229				

Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

## THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS  
1 Gym floor pads  
5 All —  
9 Kind of seat or heads  
13 Thanks —  
14 Walls protecting harbours  
15 Saharan  
16 Rooney/Garland film  
19 Refrigerants  
20 Miami Heat coach  
21 Remnants  
22 GWTV name  
24 Avers  
27 Lawyer's writing pad  
31 Departed  
32 Poisonous substance  
33 Law gp.  
34 "Evita" co-star  
38 Honey or spelling  
39 — Park, CO  
40 Astle  
41 Flowed  
43 Relative intensity  
45 — bien  
46 Type of ranch  
47 Hiding place  
50 Madness  
54 Vegas item  
57 Herbie or Horace  
58 Brief quarrels  
59 Give nff  
60 Cigar ending  
61 Utters  
62 Gambling town



by Stanley B. Whitten

AILS	LOKI	ELBA
DRIP	ADEN	SLOOP
JAMESTOWN	HOURI	
TEACHER	STEPINS	
TENSE	ORES	
UNSEAT	YOUR	VAS
PAAR	JERRY	IDA
SINS	CULLS	FLAG
EVAS	SADIE	OLGA
TEN	PROD	CAREEN
TALE	STORE	
STOMATA	SEAWEED	
CANIS	CHARLOTTE	
APISH	MARC	RUNE
TAOS	ELSE	DIAS

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DOWN  
1 Opp. of fem.  
2 Choir member  
3 Comida participant  
4 Small dagger  
5 Boxing matches  
6 High mountains  
7 Wager  
8 Bat wood  
9 Certain consonant  
10 Type of exam  
11 Ivy, e.g.

49 Penny  
50 June 6, 1944  
51 Kind of bomb  
52 Pack — (quit)  
53 Regarding  
55 Author's works: abhr.  
56 D.C. org.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 1997

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righer Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Update your daily routines today so they will be more efficient and, thereby, more successful. Stay at home and be happy with your mate later this evening and you can rest for the activities ahead in the days ahead.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Many changes with fellow associates today which can bring greater harmony and success to your business activities. Cut down on your personal expenses later this evening so you will have extra funds in an emergency.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Be alert for an opportunity today which will appear quite suddenly, as this can bring you greater prosperity. You should not hesitate to take a trip with your loved ones to some fun recreational location.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Listen to the advice of your mate today, as this person has some very good ideas, which can be quite beneficial. Be careful in motion of any kind later this evening while you are on the highway and avoid any difficulties.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Your intuition in handling personal matters today, and get fine results. You should not allow some insignificant difficulties to ruin your good, so keep a positive attitude and everything will be prosperous.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Before going out socially today, listen to the advice of your mate and follow it to the letter. Be sure to think before you speak later this evening or you could say something which could get you in hot water.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Your intuition is excellent at this time, so you should not hesitate to follow it. Stop analysing so much any situation, and learn to act more quickly in making decisions or there could be an opportunity which will pass by.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Study the promises you have made today, and be sure you can handle them in the days ahead. Avoid persons who tend to raffle your feathers or you could say something which could get you in a difficult situation.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Find out what the expectations of your fellow associates are today, and come to a fine understanding with them. Be peaceful at home later this evening with your loved ones and relax your mind and body.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have some fine ideas for adding to your present income, so don't waste any time foolishly today. Cooperate more with fellow associates on any career activities which develop and thereby become successful.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Do something unique to please your mate today, and establish greater happiness between the two of you. Try to use your creative abilities later this evening to devise a plan of action which will be successful.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Your home and family should be your first concern today, so focus your



emerging market profile are now in the pipeline: A \$100 million Eurobond issue by Jordan Phosphate Mines to be launched next month and a debut \$70 million sovereign bond issue expected by year-end.



## Holyfield still has something left to prove in rematch

LAS VEGAS (R) — Evander Holyfield may be the reigning heavyweight champion, having earned the title by soundly beating Mike Tyson last November, but he still has something left to prove in their rematch on Saturday.

"It's special for him because everyone says the first fight was a fluke, that Tyson didn't respect him and didn't train," Holyfield's trainer Don Turner said Monday.

The Holyfield camp claim to be much less amazed than the rest of the boxing world over their fighter's 11th-round victory over Tyson in their first meeting, but there is still that nagging public perception problem that another beating of the former champ may resolve.

"I think it was an upset for people who don't know about boxing," Turner said. "It wasn't an upset for us. We never expected anything different."

While basketball superstar Michael Jordan might disagree, the 34-year-old Holyfield says no matter how often you win, there is always something left to prove.

"As long as you're in the game, you've always got to prove to yourself that you're the best each and every time," Holyfield said. "You can't live on your last performance."

But the confident champion added: "I know that when I'm at the best of my ability, I do win."

Co-trainer Tommy Brooks, who has been working on Holyfield's conditioning, expects Holyfield will be even better this time around.

"I think he's stronger than



Former heavyweight champion Mike Tyson talks about his upcoming rematch with Evander Holyfield during an interview at promoter Don King's house in Las Vegas. Tyson lost the first match last November in an 11th round knockout (Reuters photo)

he was for the last fight. We've been working extremely hard and he's dedicated," Brooks said. "He's given us everything that we've asked for."

Brooks said a couple of lackluster performances by the 33-3 Holyfield prior to the last Tyson fight were due more to concentration lapses than to any erosion of skills with age.

"I think there have been hard fights because he makes them hard," Brooks said. "He has a tendency not to listen to the corner. Sometimes his mind drifts."

"But in the last (Tyson) fight, and for this fight, he knows what he has to do and he's ready for it," added Brooks.

"It's going to be Holyfield again this time, again by

knockout." Rather than working out with the usual assortment of human punching bags in training, Holyfield has been sparring with Gary Bell, an up and coming heavyweight contender with a strong resemblance to Tyson.

"Gary's a tough cookie," said Holyfield. Bell has been impressed with Holyfield's dedication and focus, even compared to his preparation for the first meeting with Tyson.

"This time around Evander's much sharper," Bell said. "He was strong when we got to camp. At the last camp I was dogging him for five to six weeks. This time when we got there, he was 100 per cent stronger."

"We figure that Tyson is

going to be a little more aggressive this time. And so I've been keeping up the pace in the sparring. Holy will be prepared for whatever comes."

Added Holyfield: "There haven't been any nagging injuries. Everything has been positive."

One of the people responsible for keeping Holyfield's famous sculpted physique in proper tone, his muscle therapist Sharon Stewart, said there had been concern that Holyfield might have broken one of his hands during the first Tyson fight. It turned out that the hand was just badly swollen.

"He hits pretty hard you know," she said.

## Recovered Johnson to compete in Paris

BOULDER, Colorado (R)

— Double Olympic champion Michael Johnson has recovered from a leg injury and will make his return to competition at the Paris Grand Prix meeting on Wednesday, his agent said Monday.

"Michael has flown to Paris and will run a 400 meters on Wednesday," Brad Hunt said in a telephone interview.

It will be Johnson's first competition since the Olympic 200 and 400 meter champion severely pulled his left quadriceps in a 150-meter fastest man showdown with world 100-meter record holder Donovan Bailey in Toronto on June 1.

Johnson, who missed the U.S. Championships because of the injury, also will compete in two, perhaps three, other European meetings in the coming weeks, Hunt said.

The world 200-meter record holder is scheduled to run 400 meters at Sheffield, England, on Sunday and at Lausanne on July 2, and probably will run a 200 metres at Stuttgart on July 13, Hunt said.

## Celtics-Sixers deal may be voided if Radja fails to report

BOSTON (R) — Last Friday's trade between the Boston Celtics and Philadelphia was on hold Monday because Dino Radja had yet to report to the 76ers for a mandatory physical.

The Celtics sent forward Radja to Philadelphia for forwards Clarence Weatherspoon and Michael Cage. But if the Croat does not report to Philadelphia by 5 p.m. (2100 GMT) Tuesday, then the Sixers will likely void the trade.

"The trade situation right now is in a little bit of disarray," said Celtics new coach Rick Pitino at a Monday news conference which was scheduled to discuss the team's plans for Wednesday's NBA draft.

"Philadelphia will void the deal in our estimation if he does not show up (for his physical) and we'll have to react to him not showing up."

The 6-11 (210 m) Radja has three years left on his current contract worth \$15 million. He was limited to just 25 games last season due to a knee injury, but averaged 14 points and 8.4 rebounds for the Celtics, who finished with a franchise-worst 15-67 record.

Radja was a 1989 second-round draft pick by Boston, but remained in Europe until 1993, when he earned NBA all-rookie second-team honours by averaging 15.1 points and 7.2 rebounds in 80 games. Radja enjoyed his best season in 1995-96 when he averaged 19.7 points and 9.8 boards in 53 contests.

Weatherspoon started all 82 games for the 76ers last year, averaging a career-low 12.2 points with 8.3 rebounds per game.

If the trade goes through, 35-year-old journeyman Cage will join his fifth NBA team. He averaged just 1.8 points and 3.9 rebounds last season and has played in 657 consecutive games — the second longest active streak in the NBA.

Philadelphia, which finished at 22-60 last season, also has a new head coach, having replaced Johnny Davis with Larry Brown. The 76ers have the second overall selection in Wednesday's draft, plus three second-round picks.

Boston has the third and sixth overall selections in Wednesday's draft.

## Youth World Cup

### France rejoice in Argentina's despair

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Australia's sensational 4-3 win over defending champions Argentina gave France a free run in the World Youth Football Championships.

Kostas Salapatsidis' last-second penalty which beat Argentina turned the game for the knock-out stage upside down, leaving the superpowers in one half and France alone among the fancied teams in the other.

Brazil, Spain and England, the only teams with an all-win record so far, are all bunched together with Argentina in the

lower half.

Attention is focused in one quarter where Argentina and England clash on Thursday in the second round, with the winner likely to face Brazil in the quarter-finals.

France, who play Mexico on Wednesday, have Uruguay, Ghana and Australia as their main opponents in the top half.

French coach Gerard Houllier is naturally delighted at the turn of events.

"This is just the draw we wanted," he said.

Everyone who earlier predicted a repeat of the Argentina-Brazil final in Qatar two years ago, now has to include France in the list of likely finalists.

Argentina's unexpected setback is not the major twist to the under-20 tournament world championship so far.

United Arab Emirates, routed 5-0 in each of their first two matches, qualified as one of the four best third-placed teams after beating Ivory Coast in their last game.

Paraguay, on the other hand, were knocked out despite two draws, including a thrilling 3-3 encounter against Japan.

"We had nothing to lose and went for broke," said UAE's Croatian coach Strecko Juricic.

"It all came together and the boys are thrilled to be still playing. We've made history. It's the first time UAE have moved up in any world football championships."

Juricic looked forward to Thursday's second round clash against Ghana at Alor Setar with renewed confidence.

"Ghana are a very talented team but their style is similar to that of Ivory

coast. We have no reason to fear them," he said of his fancied rivals who topped Group C with two wins and a draw.

Ireland, who followed Ghana in second place, will take on Morocco on Wednesday without skipper Thomas Morgan who is under a one-match suspension after receiving two yellow cards.

Australia, riding high after beating Argentina in what both coaches said was the best match in the tournament, want to continue their winning ways against Japan on Thursday.

"It was a dream come true to beat Argentina," Australian coach Les Scheinberg said. "But we have to get on with it. We can't afford to rest on our laurels."

Argentine coach Jose Pekerman was a gracious loser. "It's no shame to lose such a wonderful match. There was a lot of emotion, and credit to the Australians for winning."

But he warned rivals of an Argentine backlash. "I think we can beat England and probably Brazil too since we beat them in the final two years ago and again in the south American qualifiers."

Brazil, fired by striker Adailton Miltons' nine goals including a double hat-trick against South Korea, have looked the best team so far.

And the 20-year-old, who plays for FC Guarani in the Brazilian league, believes his team can win.

"Nothing will make me happier, not even if I get the best striker's award. That would be very nice, but I want Brazil to win the title and I think we can do it."

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CINEMA TEL:634144

PHILADELPHIA "2"

Clark Gable and Vivian Leigh ... in

GONE WITH THE WIND

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 8:30

CINEMA TEL:699238

PLAZA

Jean Claude Van Damme ... in

MAXIMUM RISK

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 5:00, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420

CONCORD

CONCORD "1" Tom Cruise...in

JERRY MAGUIRE

Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:45

CONCORD "2"

Michael Jordan...in

SPACEJAM

Shows: 3:30, 6:00

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## Copa America

## Peru upstarts face biggest test so far — against Brazil

SANTA CRUZ, Bolivia (R) — Inexperienced Peru, who have already caused two major surprises in the Copa America tournament, will need to lift their game to new heights against world champions Brazil if they are to continue their remarkable run.

After a shock first round win over Uruguay and an even more unexpected quarter-final elimination of Argentina, Peru take on the gifted Brazilians in Thursday's semifinal.

Peruvian wins against Brazil are rare at the best of times, but on this occasion their chances seem even more remote against the likes of Ronaldo and Romario.

While Brazil, free of the worries of World Cup qualifying matches, have brought all their leading players, Peru have rested their best to avoid them being stretched too much by a busy fixture list.

Instead, their team is based on the side which played in last year's Olympic qualifying competition which has an Under-23 age limit. Even regular coach Juan Carlos Oblitas has given himself leave and handed the reins to assistant Freddy Ternero.

Brazil have an added advantage in having played all their games in Santa Cruz, while their opponents have spent the last two weeks traversing Bolivia.

The Peruvians started in the colonial city of Sucre at 2,700 metres altitude, played their second game in La Paz at 3,600 metres and then returned to Sucre for two more games.

On Thursday, they appear in sub-tropical Santa Cruz, which lies at the heart of the eastern plains at near sea level.

"We have suffered a lot with cities of different altitudes, with journeys, with moving from one place to another. All this wears you out, it is more tiring than the games

themselves," Ternero said.

"But in football, anything is possible. We will try to play our own football. We will try and stop Brazilian strikers Ronaldo and Romario from getting the ball easily and create a strategy which allows us to defend ourselves against the power of their strikers."

Brazil remain favourites to win the title and their opponents in the final are still expected to be hosts Bolivia who have shown formidable form in the high altitude Hernando Siles stadium in La Paz.

They have been helped by a fixture list which has given their opponents only a couple of days to adapt to the tough conditions.

Bolivia's opponents in Wednesday's first semifinal are Mexico, who are aiming to reach the final for the second time in just three attempts.

Mexico striker Luis Hernandez, top scorer in the tournament with five goals, is Bolivia's biggest worry. "We're not going to change our system just because Hernandez is in the Mexican attack," said Bolivia's Spanish coach Antonio Lopez. "We're not going to do man-to-man marking because that is not our style."

After injury and suspensions, Lopez was finally able to field his ideal midfield of Julio Cesar Baldivieso, Marco Etcheverry, Erwin Sanchez and Ramiro Castillo for the first time in nearly a year in Saturday's quarter-final win over Colombia.

But the team lacks a natural goalscorer. The venue for Sunday's final depends on the result of Wednesday's match.

If the hosts win, their final opponents will be forced to face the altitude of La Paz. If Mexico win, they will play Brazil or Peru in Santa Cruz.



Chicago White Sox baserunner Chris Snipek slides home safely in the seventh inning at Chicago's Comiskey Park as Kansas City Royals catcher Mike MacFarlane can't get a handle on the ball at the plate. Snipek scored on a base hit by Jorge Fajargas. Chicago won 7-6 (Reuters photo)

## Cone strikes out 16 as Yankees beat Tigers

DETROIT (R) — David Cone struck out a Major League season-high 16 over eight innings and finally got some offensive support to carry the New York Yankees to a 5-2 victory over the Detroit Tigers on Monday.

Cone (8-3) allowed two runs and four hits while walking two to improve to 8-1 lifetime against the Tigers. His 147 strikeouts moved him nine ahead of Seattle's Randy Johnson for the Major League lead.

Cone had been dominating in his previous two starts but did not get a win either time as his teammates failed to generate any offence for him.

In Milwaukee, Jeff D'Amico threw a four-hitter for his first career shutout and former Oriole Jack Voigt capped a four-run first inning with a two-run double as the Brewers blanked Baltimore 5-0.

In Cleveland, Brad Radke posted his fourth successive victory and Pat Meares drove in three runs to pace the Minnesota Twins to a 7-2 victory over the Indians.

Meares' RBI single to centre off starter Chad Ogea (5-8) in the top of the second put the twins up 3-0. He extended the lead to 5-2 with a two-run homer in the eighth.

In Toronto, Wil Cordero, Mike Stanley and Tim Lincecum homered in a five-run seventh inning that rallied the Boston Red Sox to a 7-6 victory over the

Blue Jays.

At Texas, Allen Watson scattered six hits over six innings and Jim Leyritz supplied the offence with a homer in the fifth as the Anaheim Angels nipped the Rangers 1-0 for their fifth straight victory.

Watson (6-4) walked one and struck out four before leaving after experiencing tightness in his left shoulder.

In Chicago, Chris Snipek's run-scoring groundout in the seventh inning snapped a tie and Albert Belle robbed Chili Davis of a home run in the ninth as the White Sox edged the Kansas City Royals 7-6.

Chicago rallied for three runs in the sixth to knot the contest and Snipek hit a slow bouncer over the mound to score Frank Thomas with the go-ahead

run in the seventh.

Davis appeared to have hit a three-run homer in the ninth but Belle extended his glove over the left-field wall and made a game-saving catch.

In Seattle, Jay Buhner and Edgar Martinez each drove in a pair of runs as the Mariners jumped out to a five-run lead after two innings and held on for their fifth straight victory, a 6-5 win over the Oakland Athletics.

Oakland starter Dave Telgheder (2-4) was reached for six runs and 11 hits over five innings. Derek Lowe (2-2) pitched five innings for the win, allowing four runs and six hits.

The Athletics got four of their runs on solo homers from Mark Bellhorn, Jason Giambi, Jose Canseco and Matt Stairs.

American League			
Minnesota	7	Cleveland	2
New York	5	Detroit	2
Boston	3	Toronto	6
Milwaukee	5	Baltimore	0
Chicago	7	Kansas City	6
Anaheim	1	Texas	0
Seattle	6	Oakland	5

National League			
Montreal	5	Florida	0
Philadelphia	9	Atlanta	3
New York	3	Houston	0
Pittsburgh	6	St. Louis	0
Chicago	3	Colorado	3
Los Angeles	5	San Francisco	6
San Diego	11		

## Hingis, Sanchez, Martinez advance Philippoussis 1st men's seed out of Wimbledon

LONDON (AFP) — Switzerland's top-seed Martina Hingis overcame a shaky start and beat Luxembourg's Anne Kremer 6-4, 6-4 in a first-round match on Wimbledon's new number-one showcourt Tuesday — she needed six match points in the final game to clinch her win.

The 16-year-old World No. 1, who went an early break down to the 218th-ranked qualifier to trail 1-3 in the first set, took time to find her rhythm before completing her win in 1hr 33mins.

Hingis, playing for the first time since her defeat in the French Open final and showing no discomfort from her knee injury, now plays Olga Barabanschikova of Belarus who earlier defeated Petra Begerow of Germany 6-3, 6-3.

Hingis underwent an operation in April after hurting her knee when she was thrown from a friend's horse.

Seventh seed Mark Philippoussis of Australia became the first men's seed to be beaten at this year's Wimbledon when Britain's Greg Rusedski completed a 7-6 (8/6), 7-6 (8/6), 6-3 first-round victory in a battle between the biggest servers in the game.

Rusedski, who hit 27 aces in the two-hour centre-court clash, now plays either Stephane Huet of France or Jonathan Stark of the United States.

The British No. 2 had led by two sets to love and was 3-1 up in the third set when fading light stopped play on Monday.

Philippoussis served 14 aces but 13 double-faults. Meanwhile Wimbledon's 'forgotten' champion Conchita Martinez, who has been struggling to recap-

her the title here in 1994, took a bold first step down the title road at this year's championships when she brushed aside Karina Habudova in less than an hour.

Playing in bright sunshine on the number-two showcourt, a new slim-line Martinez answered her critics by scoring an impressive 6-1, 6-2 victory over her 17th-ranked opponent from Slovakia.

The 25-year-old leath-seeded Spaniard, whose motivation and fitness have been questioned and who has slumped out of the top ten in the world rankings following a series of disappointing results, now plays the winner of the all-Japanese clash between Yuka Yoshida and Rika Hiraki.

Martinez, who has not won a title since the 1996 Italian Open, had not played since her fourth-round loss at the French Open to Amanda Coetzer of South Africa.

Germany's Anke Huber, the seventh-seed, proved too powerful for plucky Japanese qualifier Hiruka Inoue and raced home 6-3, 6-3.

Huber, who wore protective strapping on her left thigh, now faces a second-round clash against either Joannette Kruger of South Africa or Stephanie De Ville of Belgium.

Another early women's winner was experience American Nicole Pietrangeli who defeated Petra Langrova of the Czech Republic 6-2, 6-0.

The 27-year-old Pietrangeli could find herself playing top-seed Martina Hingis in the third-round if she can beat either compatriot Lisa Raymond or Eva Martincova of the Czech Republic in her next match.

Aranza Sanchez-Vicario, a runner-up for the



Martina Hingis of Switzerland plays a return to Luxembourg's Anne Kremer during her first round match at the Wimbledon tennis championships. Hingis is seeded number one in the tournament (Reuters photo)

less mood on Wimbledon's centre-court needing just 50 minutes to defeat first-round opponent Clare Wood of Britain 6-0, 6-0.

Sanchez-Vicario, who shared the final victory at Eastbourne with Jana Novotna on Sunday when play had to be abandoned, was always in charge against the 29-year-old, 365th-ranked home player.

The 25-year-old Spaniard, seeded eighth, now plays either Emmanuelle Gagliardi of Switzerland or Catalina Cristea of Romania.

South African Wayne Ferreira, trailing by two sets to love when rain stopped play on Monday, came back to produce a 'Houdini-style' escape act and beat first-round opponent Scott Draper of Australia 6-7 (5/7), 3-6, 6-4, 6-0, 7-5.

At one stage the 15th-seeded Ferreira trailed 2-5 in the fifth set.

The 25-year-old from Johannesburg, who has been at the centre of controversy in the British tabloid press for describing home player Greg Rusedski as having "a big serve and little else", now plays either Jeff Tarango of the United States or Rodolphe Gilbert of France.

South Africa's sixth-seeded Amanda Coetzer saw off a brave challenge

by Alexandra Fusai of France and reached the second-round of the women's singles Tuesday.

The 25-year-old Coetzer, who reached the French open semi-finals, completed a 7-6 (7/1), 6-1 victory in 1hr 28mins.

The two players had been level pegging at 6-6 when rain stopped play on Monday.

Coetzer now plays either Miho Saeki of Japan or Patricia Hy-Bulais of Canada.

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Australia's Mark Philippoussis plays a return against Britain's Greg Rusedski at Wimbledon (Reuters photo)

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American League			
Minnesota	7	Cleveland	2
New York	5	Detroit	2
Boston	3	Toronto	6
Milwaukee	5	Baltimore	0
Chicago	7	Kansas City	6
Anaheim	1	Texas	0
Seattle	6	Oakland	5

National League			
Montreal	5	Florida	0
Philadelphia	9	Atlanta	3
New York	3	Houston	0
Pittsburgh	6	St. Louis	0
Chicago	3	Colorado	3
Los Angeles	5	San Francisco	6
San Diego	11		

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## Turkish leftists pledge to support Yilmaz in quest for government

ANKARA (AFP) — The leaders of two Turkish left-wing parties promised Tuesday to support prime minister designate, Mesut Yilmaz, as he held talks with opposition groups towards forming a coalition government that would exclude Islamists.

"I promise that my party will contribute in all possible ways," Bulent Ecevit, leader of the Party of the Democratic Left (DSP), told reporters after talks with Mr. Yilmaz, who leads the conservative Motherland Party.

Deniz Baykal, who heads the People's Republican Party (CHP), promised even before sitting down with Mr. Yilmaz the support of his social-democratic side when a vote of confidence in a new government is held.

He added, however, that the CHP would not be a member of a coalition government.

For his part, Husamettin Cindoruk, leader of the small right-wing Party for a Democratic Turkey (DTP), did not rule out joining a

Yilmaz-led government.

Mr. Yilmaz was tasked with forming a new government Friday by President Suleyman Demirel after Islamist Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan stepped down as prime minister.

Mr. Erbakan stepped aside after 12 months of fractious relations with the influential Turkish military, which sees itself as the guardian of Turkey's secular heritage.

Mr. Ecevit did not spell out exactly how the DSP would contribute to a new government — for instance, whether it would join a coalition with it, or simply pledge its support in parliamentary votes.

He said the details did not come up during his talks with Mr. Yilmaz.

But he called upon Foreign Minister Tansu Ciller — a former prime minister and long-time Mr. Yilmaz rival whose True Path Party had supported Mr. Erbakan's government — to participate in a Yilmaz-led coalition.

"It must be a government

with as broad a base as possible," Mr. Ecevit said. "True Path must be part of a new government (and) Ms. Ciller must overcome sentimental hurdles to contribute to the formation of a new government."

Ms. Ciller had hoped that she would form the next government, and Friday she ruled out cooperation with Mr. Yilmaz — a view backed up Monday by True Path's leadership, although Ms. Ciller and Mr. Yilmaz were to meet later Tuesday.

Mr. Yilmaz, 49, faces an uphill struggle to put together the required parliamentary majority he needs to win a crucial vote of confidence for any new government.

He currently has the backing of some 265 deputies — his own party, two left-wing parties, a centrist group and independents and lacks around 10 votes in the 550-seat national assembly.

But a confident sounding Mr. Yilmaz said at the weekend: "I expect several deputies to resign from True Path in the next few days. I don't worry about the vote

of confidence." He already has the support of at least one former True Path deputy who defected at the weekend.

Ms. Ciller, on the other hand, could count on a majority and has vowed to fight Yilmaz's attempts to poach supporters from her party.

Mr. Yilmaz, a centre-rightist who briefly served as prime minister twice in the 1990s, has ruled out any role for Mr. Erbakan in his new government.

"Turkey is tired of Welfare, Welfare is tired of power... the most useful service that Mr. Erbakan can do for the nation would be to ensure that Welfare ceases to be a party which creates tensions," he said.

Mr. Erbakan became modern Turkey's first Islamist prime minister last June, after forging an uneasy alliance with Ms. Ciller.

Turkey's military openly accused Mr. Erbakan's party of inciting its supporters against Turkey's secular regime, heightening fears of a military takeover.



FROM HOME TO MUSEUM: Hassan Habibi, first deputy of the Iranian President opens Golestan Palace in Tehran Tuesday after it was converted into a public museum. The palace was the residence of two previous Iranian royal dynasties who ruled the country before the Islamic revolution (AFP Photo)

## Cairo court overturns ban on female excision

CAIRO (AFP) — A Cairo court Tuesday overturned a year-old government ban on female excision in Egypt in a ruling hailed by Islamist fundamentalists but condemned by human rights activists.

Judge Abdelaziz Hamada said the Cairo administrative court ruled that the controversial operation, in which all or part of the clitoris and sometimes the labia is removed, can be carried out.

The judge said the ruling "cancelled" Health Minister Ismail Sallam's ban on female excision which came into force last year, a decree the court labelled an "abuse of power."

"God be praised, we have won and can apply Islam," said Sheikh Yussef Badri, an Islamist clergyman who was a party to the suit filed with the Cairo court by a group of Islamists, lawyers and doctors.

The age-old practice of female excision, usually carried out on girls aged around 10, continues to be widespread in Egypt, where 97 per cent of women are excised, according to a study released in February.

Supporters say excision is important to quell sexual desire before marriage.

But it has claimed the lives of several young girls who died to death at the hands of amateur "surgeons," often barbers.

"This judgement is not only against women's rights but also against the Egyptian penal code which contains a clause prohibiting

excision of any part of the human body," said Siham Abdel Salam, a doctor with the Egyptian Organisation for Population and Development.

"Circumcision has nothing to do with religion. In Egypt it is practised by both Muslims and Christians," Dr. Salam added.

The country's highest civil court, the Council of State, recommended in May that female excision should be legal although it is not mandatory under Islam, and said the decision should be left to each individual family.

The administrative court said Tuesday that Mr. Sallam had committed an "abuse of power" because he did not have the right to decide alone to ban, and therefore criminalise, the practice.

Only parliament can decide on what constitutes a crime, the court said.

The debate erupted after a 14-year-old girl died while a doctor was carrying out an excision in August last year. The doctor was later charged with negligence.

Mr. Badri said excision was recommended by the "Sunna," acts or words by the Prophet Muhammad which along with the Koran are considered the basis of Islamic law.

He said excision was already widely practised and he wanted to prevent young girls becoming the victims of barbers' razors.

The Organisation of Human

rights has estimated that nearly 3,600 girls, both Muslims and Coptic Christians, undergo excisions each day in Egypt.

Eight Egyptian women out of 10 support the practice because they consider it a "good tradition," according to a study earlier this year.

Egypt's highest Sunni Muslim authority, Sheikh Mohammed Sayyid Tantawi of Al Azhar, has said Islam does not advocate female excision and that doctors should decide whether it is necessary to perform the operation.

Last month, the mufti of Egypt issued a fatwa decreeing that female excision should be allowed even though it is not obligatory under Islam.

"Muslim clerics agree that circumcision is legal and that it is a matter for women," the mufti, Sheikh Nasr Farid Wassel, said.

"Circumcision is neither obligatory, nor illegal. It is an issue left up (to the choice) of the people concerned."

An Egyptian court is also due to rule next Monday in another case brought by Islamist fundamentalists against Education Minister Hussein Kamel Bahadddin, for allowing school textbooks to contain material describing excision as a "harmful custom."

Government newspaper Al Ahram has reported that 16 cases have been filed with the Cairo administrative court against female excision.

## Most bombs used by Israel in Lebanon came from U.S. army

LONDON (AFP) — Most of the bombs and air-ground missiles fired by Israel in Lebanon last year were sold to the United States armed forces and not Israel, a press report said here Tuesday.

The Independent said the bombardment in southern Lebanon that killed almost 200 civilians and 14 guerrillas from the pro-Iranian Hezbollah, used at least 1,700 bombs and missiles that were "transferred" from U.S. military stocks with no prohibition on their use against civilians.

The daily said that enquiries it had carried out had revealed, for example,

that a hellfire missile fired by Israelis at an ambulance in southern Lebanon on April 13, 1996 — which killed four children and two women — was originally sold to the U.S. Marine Corps by a U.S. company called Martin Marietta.

It was only later transferred to Israel.

The Independent said the system of weapons transfers from U.S. inventories has become so routine that massive shipments of ordinance to Israel are now undertaken with no publicity or debate.

It added that earlier this month, the United States received an order for 98,000 shells for 155 mm guns at a

cost of \$30 million.

This is reportedly over three times the 26,000 rounds fired into Lebanon during the entire three-week "Grapes of Wrath" operation last year.

Senatorial and Congressional committees will routinely approve the transfer next month, the Independent claimed.

U.S. officers have reportedly told the paper that Israel now has carte blanche to plunder the U.S. inventory, knowing that its sympathisers on Capitol Hill will raise no questions about the use that will be made of America's military technology against Arab countries.

## Israel, U.S. stage secret weapons conference

EILAT (AFP) — A secret symposium on missiles organised by the Pentagon opened in this Red Sea resort on Monday amid tight security, Israeli television reported.

Around 500 delegates — senior defence ministry officials from around 20 unidentified Western countries — are gathered for closed-door discussions on ballistic missiles and interception systems, it said.

The hotel hosting the conference has been closed and dozens of Israeli security guards and agents from the CIA have been deployed to keep people away, the television reported.

Missiles as well as large models are on display along with video films about new weapons being developed in the United States and Israel.

The two countries are currently working on a ballistic anti-missile missile nicknamed Hetz, or arrow in Hebrew, which is due to be operational by the year 2000.

They are also developing a laser air defence system known as Nautilus designed to destroy Katyusha rockets used by the Lebanese Shiite militia group Hizbollah against Israeli forces in south Lebanon.

## Annan calls for 'sustained negotiations' on Cyprus

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Kofi Annan has called for a "sustained process of direct negotiations" to reach a comprehensive settlement of the Cyprus question and urged the full backing of the Security Council.

In a letter to the president of the Council circulated on Monday, he gave formal notification of face-to-face talks between the leaders of the Greek Cypriot and Turkish Cypriot communities to be held in the New York area from July 9 to 13.

Taking part will be President Glafcos Clerides and Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denkash, in what will be their first known direct contact in nearly three years. Mr. Annan's special adviser, former Ecuadorean foreign minister, Diego Cordovez, will assist the secretary general.

Mr. Annan said the talks "will constitute the beginning of a process which should continue as long as may be needed to achieve agreement on a comprehensive solution."

## Saudi court gives British nurses 2 more weeks as lawyers clash

RIYADH (AFP) — A Saudi court has given two British nurses accused of killing an Australian colleague two more weeks to strike a deal with the victim's family that could save their lives, as rival lawyers clashed Tuesday.

Legal sources said the Khobar court in eastern Saudi Arabia adjourned the trial until July 7 to allow the family to provide full proof of the right of the victim's brother, under Islamic law, to decide on whether to grant mercy.

The court Monday also "requested that the two parties make full use of the next two weeks to make yet another attempt at reconciliation."

The court "pointed out Monday that the evidence clearly shows that Yvonne's mother and brother are her only surviving blood relatives and hence, fully entitled... to pursue their Islamic rights," said an ILF statement.

But the Hejailan firm has also raised doubts over the validity of a power of attorney to Frank from Yvonne's 85-year-old mother, Muriel, who lives in a nursing home, and over her mental competence.

The ILF insists that Frank, in rejecting the mercy option, is also speaking on behalf of his ailing mother.

In spite of the court's renewed call for a reconciliation, the rival law firms, both Riyadh-based, engaged in a new war of words Tuesday. The Hejailan firm allegedly stole from Ms. Gilford's bank

account after the killing.

"This seems a strangely mercenary request for Frank Gilford to make when he has stated publicly on more than one occasion that he is not seeking financial compensation following his sister's death," it said.

The delay in submitting full documents to the court also came in for criticism from the Hejailan firm, which said it was causing "further weeks of worry and headache" for the nurses who have already been in jail six months.

On the ILF side, Ghassan Awaji said the court wanted the nurses and their lawyers "to treat the victim's family with due deference and respect." Mr. Hejailan, who heads the nurses' law firm, meanwhile, failed to appear in court Monday for the fourth time in five hearings, noted the ILF, saying he was "vacationing in Nice," southern France.

The British and Australian consul generals attended the latest hearing along with McLauchlan's brother, John. The trial which opened May 19 is being held behind closed doors.

As the judges work to settle the issue of who is entitled to spare the nurses, a source close to the case said the court already has the evidence against them gathered by the public prosecutor's office.

## Remaining 13 detainees from Dirar incidents to be released

By Rana Hussein  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Salt Governor Abdullah Hussban said Tuesday that the remaining detainees of the Sunday incident which took place in Dirar village near Deir Alla, will be released today.

"We have instructions to free the remaining 13 people who were detained Sunday," Mr. Hussban said. Newspapers reported Tuesday that HRH Prince Abdullah, the Regent, ordered the release of all those detained following the incident.

Families in Dirar village including that of Deputy Ali Shari Sunday clashed with police, after a bulldozer belonging to the Jordan Valley Authority demolished seven partially constructed uninhabited houses and water irrigation canals.

Reports in local press put the number of injured during the clashes at 23 civilians and 16 policemen.

Mr. Hussban said an investigation committee questioned almost 30 people during the past three days, and "some individuals were released after it was proven that they were not involved" in the clashes.

According to Mr. Hussban, the authorities' move to demolish the houses built on state lands was "strictly based on court orders."

Dirar residents, on the other hand, insist that they have resided there for a long time and have paid rent to the government for its use.

They further charge that more houses will be demolished in the next few days, a claim that was quickly denied by Mr. Hussban.

"We have no other orders from courts to destroy any houses. These allegations are baseless," Mr. Hussban told the Jordan Times.

Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid, was quoted Tuesday in Al Ra'i newspaper, as blaming Deputy Shari for Sunday's clashes. "Deputy

Shari instigated the citizens there to resist the authorities," the minister charged.

Deputy Shari was quoted in other dailies as saying that the minister himself did not react positively to a request made by Deputy Prime Minister Jawad Anani to defer the issue until Thursday for further consultation with the Cabinet.

The interior minister warned in his interview with Al Ra'i that the government will not tolerate any violations committed by individuals against state lands, "and will implement the law to stop such actions."

Dirar residents had said that they will petition His Majesty King Hussein to redress the situation and order a halt to the demolitions.

In a similar incident in April, one man was killed when police attempted to evict families from their homes in Salhiat Abed, east of Amman.

## Well sought fugitive dies just before getting arrested

AMMAN (Petra) — A fugitive from Zibdet Al Wasatiyeh in the Irbid Governorate who was suspected of being involved in many theft, forgery and fraud crimes, fell dead in his house as a result of a coronary attack before the police authorities could arrest him.

Samer Mohammad Ziyad who was involved in a series of thefts, fraud and burning one of the houses in his hometown in Zibdet Al Wasatiyeh escaped many police attempts to arrest him, the latest of which was on Monday June

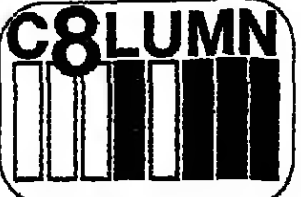
23, when a police force used a search warrant to inspect his house. Public Security Department (PSD) sources said Tuesday.

The PSD also said that police forces were denied entry to his house by his brother, together with people from the village resulting in a fist fight between them and the police.

After numerous attempt to search the house a police officer accompanied by the village mukhtar (chief) were allowed in where they found Samer laid motionless on the floor. The officer tried to perform first aid

in preparation for rushing him to a hospital but his family refused and instead they took him to Maa'th Ben Jabal Hospital in North Shuneh where he was pronounced dead. The corpse was taken to the forensic doctor for establishing the reason of death who attributed it to a blockage in coronary arteries and a mal-functioning of heart muscle.

Subsequently, the late fugitive's family members along with people from the village set fire to a police car and burned it.



## Famed James Bond car stolen in Florida

BOCA RATON (R) — Thieves have stolen James Bond's 1963 Aston Martin from a Florida airport hangar and may hope to sell it to a private collector, police said. Even in this well-to-do seaside city where luxury imported cars dot the roads, the flashy silver roadster with right-hand drive, machine guns, bullet-proof windows and ejection seat would likely be easily spotted. "We suspect that it could be for a private collection of some sort," Boca Raton police spokeswoman, Lori Croy, said. "It wouldn't be a vehicle you could drive on the road without being noticed." The Aston Martin DB5, used by 007 in early Bond movies such as "Goldfinger," was purloined from a hangar at a Boca airfield early last week.

## Hong Kong widow kept husband's body 3 years

HONG KONG (R) — A Hong Kong widow kept the body of her dead husband in their apartment for three years and often slept near the corpse to keep it company, police said on Tuesday. They discovered the dried-up remains of 74-year-old martial arts teacher Chow Mun after one of his daughters who lived with the widow rang police. Chow Au King, 59, who was taken to hospital for psychiatric treatment, told police that she believed her husband would wake up some day. The body was discovered on Monday in the sitting room of a 20th floor apartment in Wong Tai Sin, a densely-populated working class area of Hong Kong. For three years, the widow used the threat of suicide to persuade her daughter and three other children who shared the apartment not to report the case. A police spokesman said she washed the body every day and changed its clothes in a bizarre echo of the horror film "Psycho" in which a crazed motel owner kept the mummified body of his mother in a rocking chair.

## Top designer says Claudia Schiffer 'can't walk'

TUNIS (AFP) — Claudia Schiffer may be beautiful but she's hopeless as a model, says French couturier Paco Rabanne. "She's not a good model. She is beautiful but she doesn't know how to walk down a catwalk," the top designer told the newspaper Le Temps. According to the Spanish-born avant-garde designer, "A beautiful model isn't necessarily a beautiful woman but a woman who knows how to move down a catwalk, who knows how to walk, who has style. The way she holds herself, the way she presents the clothes is very important," he added.

## Dog saves pigeons in Italian town

VITERBO (R) — Pigeons in the town of Viterbo won a year's reprieve when a peregrine falcon due to be drafted in by the council to drive them away was killed by a dog before it could get to work. The male bird of prey, which swoops at great speed to kill small mammals and birds, was to have been housed with its mate in a bell tower to scare off pigeons whose droppings have badly damaged some of the Italian town's ancient monuments. It was killed by a dog belonging to the bird's trainers. Council officials said on Monday that the plan had now been delayed until next year's nesting season.